

Stabilization of Long Bone Fracture Guideline		
Effective Date: 11/2022	Original Date: 11/2022	Latest Approval Date: 08/21/2025
Number: TP-1011		Version: Original
Facility (Scope): Trauma Program		

GUIDELINE STATEMENT:

- A. This guideline describes timing and treatment of Long Bone Fractures in Multi-injured Patient Guideline

PHYSICIAN CLINICAL JUDGEMENT SUPERSEDES THIS GUIDELINE

PROCEDURE:

1. Traction splint will be removed in the emergency as soon as clinically possible for patients presenting with pre-hospital traction splint in place
2. Femoral shaft fractures will be placed into Bucks Traction upon patient arrival to the emergency department with consultation of orthopedics
3. Injured patients with tibia shaft and humerus fractures will be stabilized with long/short leg and posterior long arm/sugar tong splints in the emergency department
4. Polytrauma patients with long bone fractures will be assessed for medical stability and injuries prior to proceeding to the operating room for fracture stabilization.
5. Polytrauma patients with long bone fractures will be discussed with the trauma/SICU service along with neurosurgery service to determine:

Is the patient stable for the OR

Is the patient appropriate for definitive fixation or damage control

6. Stabilization of femur and tibia fractures should occur within 24hrs of admission, based on stability of patient.

REFERENCES:

1. American College of Surgeons Committee on Children's Surgery. (2015). *ACS TQIP Best Practices in the Management of Orthopaedic Trauma*. Chicago: American College of Surgeons.
2. American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. (2022). *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient*. Chicago: American College of Surgeons.

KEY WORDS AND KEY PHRASES: Trauma, Surgeon, Fracture, Orthopedics

ADDITIONAL POLICY INFORMATION:

Type: Trauma Program	Owner: Trauma
Replaces: N/A	
Other required review/approval(s) (name, title, date): Trauma Committee	
Regulatory or Accreditation Agency: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma	

(The above additional policy information block is designed to be the last item in the policy situated between the policy and any attachments)