PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Effective Date: 5-20-05 Manual Reference: **Deaconess Trauma Services**

TITLE: PROCEDURE FOR TRAUMA SURGEON "SIGNING OFF CASE"

PURPOSE: To define when it is acceptable for trauma surgery to relinquish patient's care to other medical/surgical services.

GUIDELINES:

1. The trauma surgeon may determine that trauma surgery services are no longer needed in the following circumstances:
   a. The trauma patient has been followed for 24 hours after admission.
   b. The trauma patient has been thoroughly evaluated, hemodynamically stable, and has an isolated injury.
   c. The trauma patient is being transferred to PCC or Select Specialty Hospital.

2. When the trauma surgeon has determined the above situations, he/she an order covering the transfer of responsibility shall be entered into EPIC and a note discussing the transfer written in the progress notes of the patient's medical record, whereupon the medical staff member to whom the patient has been transferred shall acknowledge the transfer, and shall be responsible for the care of that patient until the patient is discharged from the hospital.

3. There must be documentation in the progress note as to the reason trauma services are no longer needed and re-consult of the trauma surgeon can be done at any time.

4. Patients transferred to Select Specialty Hospital must be transferred to the appropriate physician for medical management. The Trauma Surgeon must discuss the transfer of care with the appropriate physician as demonstrated in # 2 above.

5. Patients transferred to Select Specialty Hospital that still require Trauma Surgery services, communication of the need for following these patients must be made between trauma surgeons, as these patients will not remain on the trauma service list in EPIC.

REFERENCES:

- DEACONESS HOSPITAL, INC. – GENERAL RULES AND REGULATION OF THE MEDICAL STAFF; ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE; SECTION 3.

REVIEWED DATE	REVISED DATE
JAN 06	JAN 08
JAN 07	JUNE 11