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Special Consideration for the Management of the Pediatric Trauma Patient

Purpose: To provide a guideline for pediatric patients treated at Deaconess Midtown Hospital. Recognizing that the pediatric population has a unique set of needs, this guideline addresses the additional resources available when treating an injured pediatric patient

Definition: A pediatric patient is defined as someone 14 year of age or younger

Guidelines:

A. Pediatric Intensivist

- a. From 0700 am until 0700 am each day, including weekends, the Pediatric Intensivist on call will perform all services necessary to provide the pediatric patients of the Trauma Center with the level of on-call Pediatric Intensivist services that should reasonably be provided by a Level II Trauma Center according to the guidelines of the American College of Surgeons
- b. The designated Pediatric Intensivist representative will be available for consultation when needed
- c. Attendance on the Trauma Call Panel is a privilege extended to qualified physicians by the Medical Director of Trauma Services

B. Transfer Criteria

- a. If a pediatric patient is in need of a higher level of care than can be provided at Deaconess Midtown Hospital, see “Transfer of the Trauma Patient From Deaconess” guideline

C. Non-Accidental Trauma

- a. See “Non-Accidental Trauma in the Pediatric Population” guideline

D. Radiation Exposure

- a. Pediatric patients are more radiosensitive than adults
- b. The use of equipment and exposure settings for adults may result in excessive radiation exposure if used on pediatric patients
- c. Efforts should be made to minimize risk by reducing unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation, including computed tomography (CT), fluoroscopy, and conventional x-rays

References:

- Pediatric Intensivist Trauma Panel guideline
- Transfer of the Trauma Patient From Deaconess guideline
- Non-Accidental Trauma in the Pediatric Population
- Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2022