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Non-Surgical Admit Scoring Tool for Trauma Admits

Purpose:

As a trauma Level III center, Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is required by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification to have a method in place for evaluating the appropriateness of admitting patients sustaining a traumatic injury to units other than to trauma, orthopedic or other surgical services. The trauma center must complete a primary review of all non-surgical admissions that meet the trauma center's inclusion criteria. The center must utilize their performance improvement process to evaluate the admission for both appropriateness and to determine if a trauma or other surgical consult was needed.

When determining the appropriateness of admission to a non-surgical service, the focus must be more comprehensive than just focusing on the injury itself. There are many variables that must be considered including age, co-morbidities, DNR status and mechanism of injury. For example, there are a steadily increasing number of geriatric and/or frail patients that present to emergency departments with low impact mechanism of injury, such as ground level falls, that are admitted based on need for medical treatment rather than for the minor traumatic injury sustained. Most often this patient population is admitted with a focus on the need to treat underlying medical issues such as a syncopal episode, a concurrent illness or comorbid exacerbation that caused an altered mental status and/or weakened the patient causing the patient to fall and sustain an often-minor injury.

As a supplement to case-based reviews, a retrospective scoring tool, based off the Nelson Scoring Tool for Non-Surgical Admits was tested and implemented, with objective criteria, to help better evaluate the appropriateness of admission to non-surgical services and determine need for trauma or another surgical service's admission or consult. This tool will help mitigate any potential harm to the patient, satisfy regulatory standards, decrease variability in care, increase efficiency and improve the patient experience. The tool helps to define a population that would be considered reasonable and appropriate for admission to non-surgical services and identify those patients that may have benefited from a trauma or other surgical services admit.

Equipment:

Scoring Tool for Non-Surgical Admits (integrated into the Trauma Registry)

REG #	Criteria	Points
	Age >65 years	
Date	≥ 3 Comorbidities	
	ISS<10	
Consult	MOI is ground level fall	
Y N	NO ICU admission	
Admit to:	NO Need surgical Intervention	
	NO Blood Products given	
	Total Score	
*Each item scores 1 pt if YES 0 pts if NO		
< 4 points = Inappropriate Non-Surg Admit		
4-5 points - further review		
6-7 points = appropriate non-surg admit		
DX:		
PI:		

Guidelines:

- A. All non-surgical admissions must undergo a Trauma Service's primary review for appropriateness (right patient, right service, right time) utilizing the Scoring Tool for Nonsurgical Admit.
- B. Scoring Tool for Non-Surgical admits result evaluation:
 1. All patients that score ≤5 should have a secondary review to determine reasoning or justification for the non-surgical admit.
 2. All patients scoring 6-7 will be considered as appropriate for the non-surgical admit but should be considered for possible trauma or other surgical services consult.
- C. Trauma Services will maintain the monthly statistical analysis of non-surgical admits on the PIPS STATS spreadsheet.
- D. The Trauma monthly statistical data is shared at Trauma Mortality & Trauma Peer Review meeting, the Trauma Outcomes and Process Improvement meeting (TOPI), the Patient Safety and Quality meeting and is posted on the Hospital Alignment Board.

References:

American College of Surgeons: Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 2022 Edition, Chicago, IL. American College of Surgeons

Nonsurgical admissions with traumatic injury: medical patients are trauma patients, too. J Trauma Nursing 25(3):192-195, 2018.

PI In Motion: Nelson Non-Surgical Admission Tool and Need For Trauma Intervention (NFTI)
Tool Robbie Dumond MHA, BSN, TCRN, AEMT; <https://www.ptsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Pennsylvania-PI-In-Motion.pdf>