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Area Trauma Surgical
Critical Care

Applicability Erlanger Health -
Baroness

Management of Injury-Specific Discharge Needs for Trauma Patients

1. Process/Procedure Description

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the discharge planning process of trauma patients with varying injury patterns. This includes prescriptions, equipment, home health, and follow-up. These guidelines are set forth and agreed upon by the Trauma Surgery Service in collaboration with the Orthopedics, Plastics and Neurosurgery Services.

2. Who Should Read This Process/Procedure?

Trauma Attending, Orthopedics Attending, Plastics Attending, Neurosurgery Attending, Trauma Residents, Orthopedic Residents, Plastics Residents, Trauma/Orthopedics/Neurosurgery APPs

3. Definitions:

- Isolated Orthopedic Injuries: Patients that have one or more orthopedic injuries but no general trauma injuries and no indication for follow-up with Trauma Surgery
- Isolated Neurosurgery Injuries: Patients that have one or more neurosurgical injuries (brain or spine) but no general trauma injuries and no indication for follow-up with Trauma Surgery
- Isolated Plastics Injuries: Patients that have one or more plastics injuries but no general trauma injuries and no indication for follow-up with Trauma Surgery
- Multi-system Trauma Patients: Patients with injuries to more than one isolated system and/or general trauma injuries

4. Process/Procedure

Step:	Process Instructions/Description:
1.	For patients admitted to the Trauma Surgery service: When consulting service(s) deems the patient ready for discharge with regards to the injuries being managed by that service (i.e. when ready to “sign off”), the following should be completed by that service
	a. Orders for medical equipment, if indicated b. Injury- specific prescriptions (anticoagulation, steroids, seizure prophylaxis, antibiotics, et al) with appropriate Epic based prescriptions placed. c. Narcotic and other pain management medications as appropriate, signed and with appropriate Epic based prescriptions placed. d. Trauma Surgery will evaluate all consulting services discharge orders and prescriptions prior to finalizing the hospital discharge orders and make modifications if indicated based on hospital length of stay or other compounding factors. This will include arrangement of placement, equipment, services and additional or alternative medication prescriptions as indicated.

References:

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
VP Approval	Jessica Holladay: VP & ACNO Surg & Trauma Svcs	01/2026
Trauma Services Committee Approval	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult	01/2026
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