



Origination 03/2023
Last 04/2025
Approved
Effective 04/2025
Last Revised 04/2025
Next Review 03/2028

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Area Trauma Surgical
Critical Care

Applicability Erlanger Health -
Baroness

Tertiary and Discharge Surveys

1. Process/Procedure Description

In compliance with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, all trauma patients will receive a tertiary trauma survey and/or discharge trauma survey.

2. Who Should Read This Process/Procedure?

Trauma Surgeons, surgery residents, Trauma NP

3. Process/Procedure

Step:	Process Instructions/Description:
A. Background	The ACS requires that all trauma patients have a tertiary survey completed within 24-48 hours of admission. In addition, a discharge survey will also be completed on all trauma patients prior to discharge from the facility. If a patient is admitted for less than 24 hours, the discharge survey will meet the requirements for the tertiary survey; it is not necessary to complete both. The goals of these surveys are to identify previously unknown injuries, re-evaluate known injuries, and ensure review of lab/radiology results, while confirming medical history and prior medications have been addressed. The discharge survey also includes a verification of acknowledgement and management of incidental findings.

B. Tertiary Trauma Survey

1. The tertiary trauma survey is to be completed within 24-48 hours of admission to the trauma surgery service.
2. The trauma surgery resident is responsible for completing the tertiary trauma survey.
3. The tertiary trauma survey process includes:
 - a. Review and update patient history, including specific pre-existing conditions impacting trauma data for the registry.
 - b. Review and reconcile home meds if available.
 - c. Perform an exam for previously unidentified injuries and re-evaluation of known injuries.
 - d. Ensure all consulting services have evaluated the patient and note plan if known.
 - e. Review all lab results and final radiology reads.
 - f. List any additional labs or studies ordered based on survey findings.
4. The tertiary trauma survey will be documented in the stand alone note using the shared accepted form in the electronic medical record (dot-phrase TRAUMATERTIARY).
5. All required elements must be addressed.

C. Discharge Trauma Survey

1. The discharge trauma survey is to be completed prior to patient discharge.
2. The Trauma Nurse Practitioner (or trauma surgery resident if TNP unavailable) is responsible for completing the discharge trauma survey.
3. The discharge trauma survey process includes:
 - a. Review and update patient history including specific pre-existing conditions impacting trauma data for the registry.
 - b. Review and reconcile home meds if available
 - c. Perform an exam for previously unidentified injuries and re-evaluation of known injuries
 - d. Ensure all consulting services have cleared the patient for discharge
 - e. Review all lab results and final radiology reads
 - f. Indicate if the patient had any incidental findings identified
 - g. Any additional labs or studies should be listed.
4. The discharge trauma survey will be documented in the stand alone note using the shared accepted form in the electronic medical record (dot-phrase TRAUMADCSURVEY).
5. All required elements must be addressed.

References:

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
VP Approval	Jessica Holladay: VP & ACNO Surg & Trauma Svcs	04/2025
Trauma Services Committee Approval	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult	03/2025
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Applicability

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