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Applicability Erlanger Health -
Baroness

Trauma Center Encumbered Policy

1. Policy statement:

To develop and provide a systematic and safe approach to the care of the adult trauma patient when the resources of the trauma center are overwhelmed.

2. Who Should Read This Policy?

Trauma Residents, Trauma Attendings, All sub-specialty surgical services

3. Purpose

4. Definitions

5. The Policy

When there are more patients requiring resources than are available the trauma center needs to have a plan for how to alleviate this problem. If there are more patients requiring surgical intervention than surgeons are available at any given time each subspecialty will refer to their backup call surgeon to see the additional patients. If the primary surgeon on call and the backup call surgeon are both encumbered, every attempt will be made to contact additional surgeons from the call panel to take the additional patients to the OR. If there is no one available and we have exhausted all surgeons from the call panel the trauma attending will find out how long the patient would wait for a surgeon to be available. If this time is longer than appropriate and exceeds the time it would take to transfer the patient, then a transfer will be made to an appropriate trauma center in which Erlanger has a transfer agreement.

If the trauma center is encumbered because the proper equipment to take care of trauma patients is not available, every attempt to obtain such equipment will be made. If it is found that the equipment cannot

be made available in an appropriate time frame and it would take more time to obtain the equipment than it would to transfer the patient, then a transfer will be made to an appropriate trauma center in which Erlanger has a transfer agreement.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
VP Approval	Jessica Holladay: VP & ACNO Surg & Trauma Svcs	08/2025
OC/MEC	Shana Fox: Credentialing Mgr. Med. Staff	08/2025
Trauma Services Committee Approval	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult	06/2025
	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult	06/2025

Applicability

Erlanger Health - Baroness