



University of Colorado Hospital

Trauma Orthopedic Contingency Plan	
Effective Date: 11/2017	Replaces Policy/ Guideline: N/A
(Revised or Reviewed) Date: 3/2021	Approved By: Orthopedic Trauma Liaison, Trauma Medical Director

Purpose:

To provide a defined contingency plan for times when the on-call orthopedic trauma surgeon is unable to respond to the emergency orthopedic needs of a patient.

Scope:

Orthopedic and TACS faculty

Guideline Details:

1. The orthopedic trauma surgeon on call is dedicated to a single center when on call for orthopedic trauma at UCH.
2. In the event that the primary orthopedic trauma attending physician becomes encumbered or is involved with a surgical case that will inhibit his/her ability to respond immediately to a trauma patient resuscitation, the secondary orthopedic trauma surgery attending or another surgeon on orthopedic call for that day (VA attending, General Orthopedic Attending) will be notified by the orthopedic trauma surgeon on call.
3. In the event that the primary orthopedic attending physician on call is not available for the emergent needs of a patient, the following will occur:
 - a. The identified off-service surgeon on call or secondary trauma orthopedic surgeon will be contacted immediately
 - b. If the secondary trauma orthopedic surgeon and off-service surgeons are encumbered, TACS faculty will provide initial evaluation and stabilization for the patient in conjunction with senior (PGY4 or greater) surgical residents on call for orthopedic trauma.
 - c. If all of the above options are unavailable, the TACS faculty will then arrange transfer to Denver Health Medical Center after an attending physician to attending physician conversation with TACS faculty on call at Denver Health Medical Center. Transfer agreement will be maintained on file.
4. All cases that require activation of the back-up call surgeon or require transfer out will be reviewed by the trauma performance improvement program.

References:

Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient, 2014. American College of Surgeons.