

2. CLINICAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

D. Surgical Evaluation of ICU Patients

Surgical Evaluation of ICU Patients

Introduction

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is responsible for providing comprehensive care to critically ill trauma and surgical patients. A primary goal is the ongoing surgical evaluation and management of these patients to optimize outcomes and ensure the highest quality of care.

ICU Providers

Trauma surgeons, who hold board certification in surgical critical care and/or general surgery, and anesthesiologists with board certification in critical care medicine serve as the attending physicians in the Trauma and Surgical ICUs. They lead a collaborative, multidisciplinary team that includes critical care fellows, surgical residents, advanced practice providers (APPs), pharmacists, dietitians, and consulting specialists as needed to provide specialized care.

Surgical Assessment

- All patients admitted to the ICU are under the primary care of the trauma surgeon, ensuring consistent and coordinated care.
- Surgical evaluation is conducted continuously, 24/7, with in-house surgical coverage. The trauma surgeon is responsible for the ongoing assessment of each patient's surgical and critical care needs and remains immediately available for emergent cases.
- Consulting surgical services conduct daily assessments and communicate bidirectionally with the trauma surgery and intensive care unit teams.

ICU Coverage

- During daylight hours, the trauma surgeon collaborates management and patient care with the ICU attending.
- Nighttime coverage is provided by the in-house critical care fellow and/or the surgical resident assigned to the ICU supported by the APP's. Coverage is required to be available within 15 minutes to address any urgent issues. Escalations in care are reported to the Trauma Surgeon in house and the ICU attending.
- This 24-hour coverage model guarantees that all critically ill trauma patients receive uninterrupted, expert surgical care.

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