

Trauma Anesthesia Availability and Response Time Guideline

Purpose:

To establish guidelines ensuring timely availability and response of the anesthesia team for surgical trauma cases at Westchester Medical Center, in accordance with Level I trauma center requirements. This guideline ensures compliance with the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) standards for trauma centers, with a focus on the timely response of anesthesia services to preserve patient safety and provide optimal care.

Scope:

This guideline applies to anesthesiologists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), and anesthesia residents involved in surgical patient care. It outlines the response requirements for emergent, urgent, and elective cases and the presence of the attending anesthesiologist in trauma situations.

Definitions:

1. **Emergent Surgery:** Surgical intervention required immediately to preserve life, limb, or function.
2. **Urgent Surgery:** Surgery that must be performed within a specified time frame (typically within 4-6 hours).
3. **Elective Surgery:** Non-urgent cases scheduled in advance.
4. **Anesthesia Team Composition:** Includes anesthesiologists, CRNAs, and residents.

Requirements:

- **Response Time for Anesthesia Services:** Anesthesia providers must be available within 15 minutes of request. The attending anesthesiologist must be present within 30 minutes for all surgical procedures.
- **Anesthesia Providers:** Anesthesia services may be delivered by anesthesiologists, CRNAs, or anesthesia residents. These providers must be credentialed to initiate emergency surgeries per hospital policy.

Responsibilities:

- **Anesthesia Department Head:** Ensures compliance with response time standards, maintains 24/7 on-call availability of anesthesia services, and coordinates with the OR team to ensure timely responses.
- **Anesthesiologists, CRNAs, and Residents:** Respond promptly to requests for emergent, urgent, and elective cases. Ensure that all required medications and equipment are available for trauma cases.

F. Anesthesia Availability

- **OR Nursing Manager:** Coordinates with the anesthesia team to ensure they are promptly notified and activated for emergency surgical procedures.

Anesthesia Availability Requirements:

1. Emergent Cases:

- Anesthesia services must be available within 15 minutes of the request.
- The attending anesthesiologist must be present within 30 minutes of the request.
- Backup anesthesia staff (on-call or second-tier team) must be available in case of multiple simultaneous emergent cases or mass casualty incidents (MCIs).

2. Urgent Cases:

- Anesthesia services must be available within 30 minutes.
- For urgent cases, the attending anesthesiologist must be notified and prepared to respond based on the urgency of the case.

3. Elective Cases:

- Scheduled during regular OR hours, with anesthesia staffing determined based on case volume and complexity.
- Flexibility is maintained to accommodate any emergent or urgent cases that may arise.

Procedures:

1. Staffing:

- Maintain a 24/7 roster, ensuring the availability of anesthesiologists, CRNAs, and residents.
- The schedule must be communicated to all relevant staff and reviewed regularly to ensure continuous coverage.

2. Emergency Response Activation:

- Upon activation of an emergent case, the anesthesia team must be notified immediately and be present within 15 minutes.
- The attending anesthesiologist must arrive within 30 minutes of the request.

3. Staff Backup and Support:

- Backup anesthesia staff (second team) should be available to ensure coverage during multiple simultaneous cases or MCIs.
- Cross-training among anesthesia staff should provide flexibility in high-acuity situations.

F. Anesthesia Availability

Training and Competency:

- Regular simulations and drills, in collaboration with OR staff, are conducted to ensure readiness for trauma cases and rapid anesthesia response for trauma related care & MCI preparedness.

Performance Monitoring and Review:

- The Anesthesia Department Head, along with the Medical Director and OR Nursing Manager, will review anesthesia response times and overall compliance quarterly.
- Any deviations in anesthesia availability or delays will be documented, analyzed, and addressed for continuous improvement.

Compliance:

All anesthesia personnel must adhere to this guideline to ensure the timely and safe provision of trauma care. Non-compliance may result in corrective actions, as outlined by hospital policies.

Effective Date: March 2023

Next Review Date: March 2026