

Trauma Center Practice Management Guideline

Iowa Methodist Medical Center — Des Moines

Blank Children's Hospital – Des Moines

Emergent Bedside Orthopedic Consultation

**ADULT & PEDIATRIC
Practice Management Guideline**

Effective: 05/2017

Contact: Trauma Medical Director

Last Reviewed: 07/2025

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for Emergency Department bedside orthopedic consultation in the injured patient.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Any trauma patient requiring Orthopedic Emergency Department bedside consultation will be evaluated by the consultant within 30 minutes of request.

Orthopedic consultation is required as an emergent bedside consultation in high-risk trauma patients who presents with any of the following:

- Severe open fractures with extensive soft tissue injury, heavy contamination, and/or persistent neurovascular compromise that is not relieved by fracture reduction.
- Fractures or dislocations with persistent neurovascular compromise not alleviated by closed reduction
- Traumatic limb amputation or mangled extremity
- Suspected compartment syndrome
- Hemodynamically unstable patient due to mechanically unstable pelvic fractures requiring urgent stabilization beyond binder placement and angiography.
- Inability to reduce fractures or dislocations with high risk of avascular necrosis (femoral head and talus)

If orthopedic traumatologist unavailable, trauma and orthopedic surgery will collaboratively determine need to transfer. If patient is unstable, the priority will be stabilization through damage control guidelines.