GROUND LEVEL FALL TRAUMA ACTIVATION CRITERIA

POLICY STATEMENT:

Patients that have a ground level fall and meet activation criteria should be a trauma activation. The trauma activation will help improve patient outcomes due to the rapid response and decrease mortality in the geriatric population.

POLICY:

Guidelines for Ground Level Fall trauma activation:

- The patient has to be greater than 65 years of age with a suspected traumatic brain injury (TBI) or a suspected long bone fracture.
- Considerations to also activate the trauma are if the patient is greater than 65 years of age and has a heart rate greater than 90 or a systolic BP of less than 110.
- Consider activation if obvious signs of injury above the clavicles AND taking blood thinners.
- These patients should also have a lactate drawn to assess if the lactate level is greater than 2 this is indicative of increased mortality.

PROCEDURE:

If a patient is a ground level fall and meets the criteria above, then the trauma activation should occur. The level of activation whether it be a level 1 or a level 2 will depend on the stability of the patient. The policy aligns with evidenced based research of the geriatric patient and ground level falls that may increase mortality.

APPLICABLE DEPARTMENTS:

Emergency Department

CROSS REFERENCED POLICIES:

None

REFERENCES:

None

APPROVED:

SAMPLE

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR **DATE**

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER **DATE**

INITIATED: 2010

REVIEWED:

REVISED: 2014

SAMPLE