

DEPARTMENT: Trauma	POLICY TITLE: Response Expectations for Orthopedic Emergencies
Page 1-1	REPLACES POLICY DATED: New
EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/2015	REFERENCE NUMBER: 783-102

PURPOSE: To provide a framework for response expectations of potential orthopedic emergencies. Identified conditions require an immediate (30 minute or less) in person evaluation of the patient by the orthopedic surgeon.

Indications for immediate response from the time of notification of the orthopedic surgeon include the following:

1. ED or Trauma Surgeon determines that their expertise is required.
2. Compartment syndrome
3. Pulseless fractures of the extremity that do not regain perfusion with reduction
4. Mangled extremity (Gustilo 3C)
5. Unstable pelvic fractures that have been taken to the OR
6. Irreducible dislocations of the hip, knee, and any dislocation with ongoing vascular compromise

These guidelines are designed for the general use of most patients, but may need to be adapted to meet the special needs of a specific patient as determined by the patient's care giver.

References:

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons: Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines.
www.orthoguidelines.org