

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Clinical Practice Guidelines

POLICY # CP-29

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SUBJECT: Management of Maxillo-Facial Trauma

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 2012

SUPERCEDES DATE: April 2011

PURPOSE

To assure all DOP inmates with maxillo-facial trauma receive high quality care.

POLICY

All DOP healthcare staff shall follow these guidelines when evaluating patients with maxillo-facial trauma. Dental staff should be involved early in the care of any inmate with maxillo-facial injuries to help ensure the best outcome. Maxillo-facial trauma includes lacerations to the face and fractures involving the maxilla, mandible, sinuses, nose, orbit and zygomatic process.

PROCEDURES

1. Maxillo-facial injuries are usually caused by a fall or blunt force. Patients sustaining these injuries require radiographic evaluation. Staff should suspect fracture when the patient presents with pain, swelling, or numbness of the affected area. Other indicators of possible fracture include: displacement of a facial bone, teeth that do not occlude when the jaw closes or when the mandible deviates to one side upon opening or closing.
2. Central Prison, NCCIW, Piedmont and Marion have panoramic dental x-ray units. If the patient is stable, same day or next day referral to these facilities should be arranged to evaluate the injury. Central Prison and NCCIW can also provide other radiographic studies.
3. The patient should be sent to a local Emergency Department if s/he has a medical emergency due to uncontrolled bleeding, compromised airway, severe swelling, severe displacement or obvious compound fracture.
4. DOC has a contract with Dr. George Blakey (BGH05) at UNC School of Dentistry (G1680) for evaluation and treatment of maxillo-facial injuries. A prompt consultation may be arranged by contacting the appointment assistant, Jessica, at 919-843-1679. After hours his service may be contacted by calling UNC Hospitals at 919-966-4131. Ask to speak to the on-call Oral Surgery Resident for guidance in managing the injury.
5. Due to the distance from UNC, western facilities may alternatively refer patients to Dr. Chris Brown (G218R [Hickory], G3121 [Morganton], BCX45). Office numbers are 828-327-7867 (Hickory) and 828-433-4499 (Morganton).
6. Facial fractures are reduced under general anesthesia. Anesthetic complications may occur hours after administration. Consequently, patients discharged from UNC or Dr. Brown's office after surgery under general anesthesia must be housed in an infirmary or medical observation bed until the first post-op appointment (usually one week). Patients placed in rigid fixation (wired closed) must remain in this housing until the hardware is removed. Refer to the table listing infirmary and medical observation bed facilities and their housing criteria. Post-surgery housing shall be arranged prior to surgery. Contact the appropriate bed manager once the day of surgery is determined. Transportation officers should know in advance where they will transport the patient after discharge.

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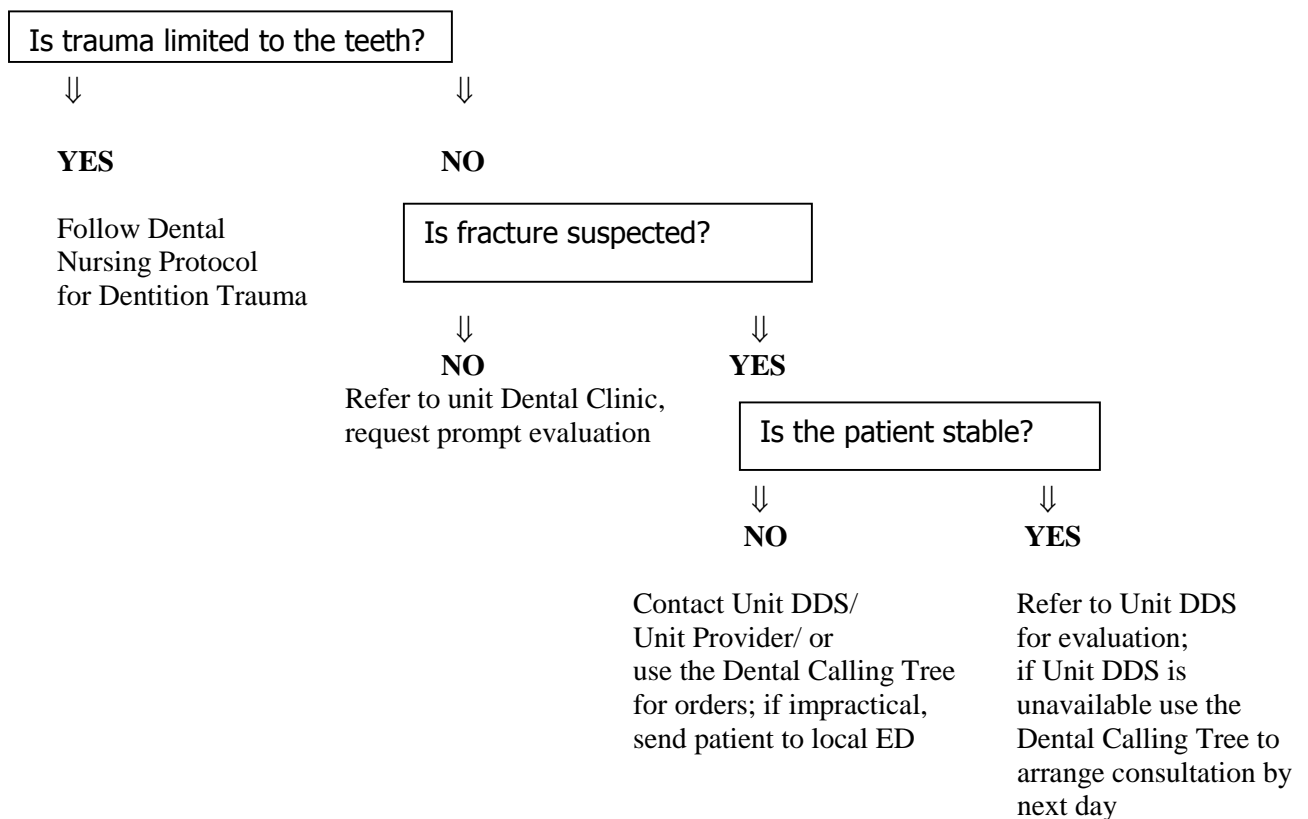
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7. Fractures involving the orbit require an ophthalmology consultation. This consultation should be obtained first and be available to Dr. Blakey at the time of his consultation.
8. Routine, stable, non-displaced facial fracture patients may remain at their duty unit until the day of surgery. Consideration should be given to isolating the patient to prevent further injury.
9. For additional information, refer to the Memo issued by the Director on April 16, 2010 "Oral Surgery Fracture Cases and Housing Protocol." It may be viewed on the internal web page (Director's Memos and Health Services Communications).
10. Decision Matrix for Triaging Maxillo-facial Trauma



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11. Medical Observation Bed and Infirmary Facilities

POST ORAL SURGERY MEDICAL OBSERVATION BED/INFIRMARY HOUSING CRITERIA

ALEXANDER CORRECTIONAL

Age 19 or older

Felon

Minimum, Medium, or Close custody

MAURY CORRECTIONAL

Age 19 or older

Felon

Minimum, Medium, or Close custody

PIEDMONT CORRECTIONAL

Age 19 or older

Felon

Minimum, Medium, or Close custody

CENTRAL PRISON HOSPITAL COMPLEX

Any male

NCCIW

Any female

WESTERN YOUTH INSTITUTION

Any male



2/28/12

Paula Y. Smith, MD, Director of Health Services

Date

SOR: Dental Director