

Trauma Clinical Guideline: **Initial Evaluation & Management of Blunt Abdominal Injury**

The Medical Directors of designated trauma services in Washington State meet to share ideas and concerns regarding trauma care. The group evaluates the value of guidelines for trauma care for the Governor's Steering Committee on Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care.

This guideline is distributed by the Washington State Department of Health to assist trauma services with the development of their trauma patient care guidelines. The Trauma Medical Directors have categorized the type of guideline, the sponsoring organization, how it was developed, and whether it has been tested or validated to assist the physician in evaluating the content of this guideline and its potential benefits for their practice or any patient.

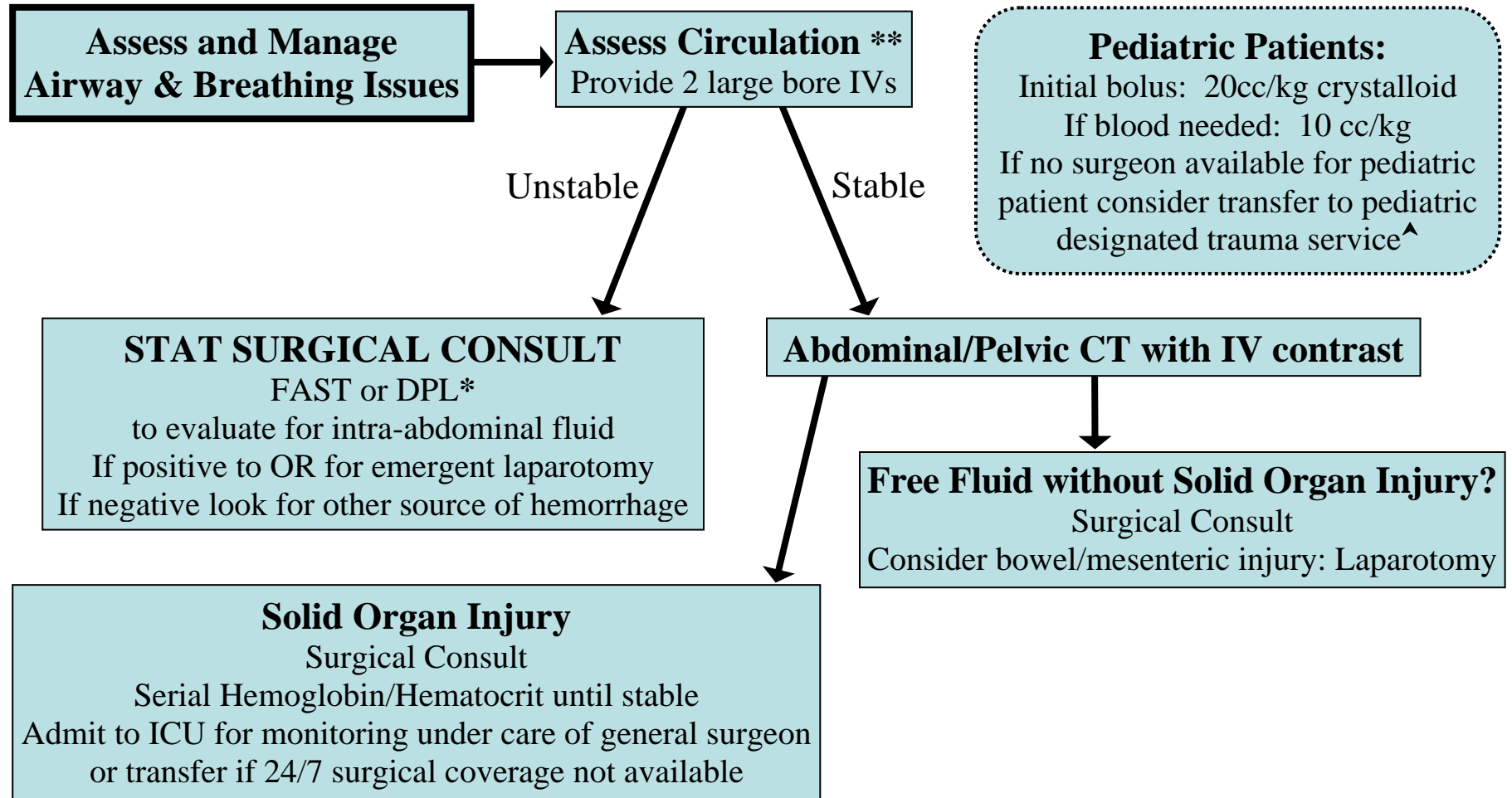
The Department of Health does not require the use of this guideline. The Department recognizes the different resources of different trauma services. The decision to use this guideline depends on the physician. It is recommended that trauma services and physicians who choose to use this guideline check with the Department for any updates. The Department appreciates receiving any information regarding experiences with this guideline. Please direct comments to Mary Rotert RN at 360 236-2874 or mary.rotert@doh.wa.gov.

This is a trauma evaluation and management guideline. It was adapted from the professional literature. The Trauma Medical Directors group reviewed the guideline, sought input from trauma care physicians throughout Washington State, and used that input to make changes. The guideline was then endorsed by the Steering Committee and by the DOH Office of Community Health Systems. This guideline has not been tested or validated.

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Guideline for Initial Evaluation & Management Blunt Abdominal Injury



* FAST=Focused Abdominal Ultrasound for Trauma, DPL=Diagnostic peritoneal lavage. Choice of test depends on operator experience.

** If unstable pelvic fracture see Major Pelvic Fracture Management Guideline for stabilization www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/download/majorpelvicfx.pdf

[^] See Pediatric Consultation and Transfer Guideline www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/download/pediatrictransfer.pdf