

CHEST TRAUMA

UNIVERSAL ALGORITHM

- Scene Safety
- PPE
- ABCs
- Administer Oxygen per Policy 580

Penetrating Trauma

Blunt Trauma

Open Chest Wound

- Cover wound with chest seal device or Vaseline impregnated gauze and tape loosely on three sides
- Monitor patient closely for development of tension pneumothorax. If this occurs, remove dressing to allow the air to escape

Flail Chest

- Support flail section with pillow or other supportive device to provide patient comfort
- Monitor patient closely for respiratory or cardiac deterioration

- Impaled objects - stabilize with bulky dressings – do not remove object
- Position of comfort if not contraindicated
- Consider spinal precautions
- Obtain vital signs
- Provide respiratory support as indicated
- Do not delay transport

- Reassure/calm patient
- Position of comfort if not contraindicated
- Consider spinal precautions
- Obtain vital signs
- Provide respiratory support as indicated
- Do not delay transport