

Parent Policy:	Title:	Standard Operating Procedure
	Care of the Acute Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury	Effective Date: 01/19/2021

Care of Acute Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Patients
WakeMed Health and Hospitals Raleigh Trauma Services

WHO SHOULD READ THIS PROCEDURE:

This procedure shall be read by WPP Surgery and all practitioners caring for trauma patients.

BACKGROUND: In order to care for this complicated patient population Trauma Services has created a multifactorial best practice program including a population specific order set, a best practice pathway, focused respiratory assessment, and Clinical Nurse Specialist-led multidisciplinary rounds.

This document is a quick reference only.

Nicole Cook is the Clinical Nurse Specialist for Trauma Services. She is consulted on and follows all SCI patients to provide support and best practice recommendations, as well as facilitate patient and family education and updates. Please reach out to her as needed for any questions via Rapid Connect.

- Acute traumatic SCI patients are admitted to Trauma Services with a Spine consult (either orthopedics or neurosurgery.)
- In addition to trauma admission orders, the Spinal Cord Supplemental order set must be utilized
 - The SCI order set will ensure best practice care and appropriate consults are placed
- NIF (negative inspiratory force) testing as well as a focused assessment by RT is ordered BID on all acute traumatic SCI patients. RT documents the NIF values and assessment in a note. These patients are at high risk for respiratory failure, and the team should not rely on pulse oximetry alone as an indicator of pulmonary and ventilatory function.
 - If respiratory orders are not utilized while the patient is intubated (i.e. NIF or quad cough) please order these once the patient is extubated.
 - For a NIF less than -30 RT will notify the provider.
- The predominance of SCI patient will require bowel and bladder training to begin while inpatient. There are specific orders within the SCI order set that address this.
 - The I/O cath order within the order set is created specifically for SCI patients.
 - Please do not cancel the I/O cath order within the order set without ensuring that the patient has intact perineal sensation and is able initiate voiding and completely empty their bladder.
- Please reference the following policies/guidelines as needed:
 - Thoracic and Lumbosacral Spine Injuries
 - Pediatric Cervical Spine Clearance
 - Cervical Spine Injury & Clearance

Prepared by: MGR, TRAUMA PROGRAM

Approved by: MED DIR, TRAUMA

No: 9130



Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.