

**BARNES-JEWISH HOSPITAL  
TRAUMA SERVICES POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

**TITLE:** Trauma Limitations

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**SUBMITTED/REVIEWED BY:** Julie Nash, RN, MSN, Manager  
Trauma Services

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**Policy Statement/Purpose**

- A. Describe Limitations and the circumstances that warrant Limitations.

**Procedure**

- A. There is never a primary scene diversion or bypass unless there is a mechanical equipment failure that closes the ED.
- B. The following situations are where the need for Trauma Transfer Limitations might occur and what the process will be for each.
1. There are no available ICU beds of any type in BJH. This is a situation where the VP of Nursing Services and the Chief of the Medical Staff are already closely involved with exploring options for maintaining an open status for the institution. If the decision is made that truly no beds are available, and the ED has overloaded capacity based on predetermined conditions, the ED may go on limitations. This is not refusal of patients, but some stable patients may instead be given the option of transferring straight to the floor instead of the ED, transferring later or going to another institution if they choose not to wait. Such patients will be discussed with the on call trauma attending for possible direct admission to floor beds. The Trauma Director will be notified while on transfer limitations. Trauma patients will never be told that a transfer cannot be done at some time.
  2. There is a mechanical or equipment failure that precludes the safe management of trauma patients in either the ED, OR or ICU environments. These are uncommon instances but the Senior Level Supervisor managing the area involved should contact the Trauma Director or designate to notify him of the situation and to review the steps being initiated to correct the problems. The Trauma Director or designate collaborates with the Emergency Department in such instances to determine if true bypass is required. As per other scenarios, the situation is re-evaluated every few hours so that a decision can be made for when is the most appropriate time to come off Trauma bypass. The Trauma Director or designate contacts the ED Communication Nurse to notify the ED of when BJH is going off Trauma Limitations.

**Approval**

Dr. Douglas Schuerer, Medical Director, Trauma Services      Date of Approval 10/15