MEMO

Date:  November 5, 2015

To:   Trauma Multidisciplinary Committee Members

From:  Dennis Ashley, MD
        Chairman, Trauma Multidisciplinary Committee

The Trauma Multidisciplinary Review committee met Tuesday, October 27, 2015, for our monthly review. Please find the following teaching points and synopsis of the discussion. Please share this information with physicians from your Department who participate on the Trauma Call schedule.

- Acute lung injury in the patient with chronic lung disease - Patients with COPD and other chronic lung diseases can present as a challenging patient to the trauma service. Acute lung injury in this setting such as pneumothoraces, pulmonary contusions, flail chest, etc can significantly compromise the patient's ability to recover. Early admission to the ICU with aggressive respiratory support such as bipap and/or endotracheal intubation with mechanical ventilation may be required. Patients may have persistent air leaks from their chest tubes due to the diseased lungs and may require pressure controlled ventilation. Consultation with palliative care service may be indicated in many of the older patients. Early family discussions with the trauma team and palliative care are important as to reasonable expectations for recovery and outcomes.