



POLICY: 554.85  
 TITLE: Chest Trauma

EFFECTIVE: 02/13/2019  
 REVIEW: 02/2024  
 SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

**Chest Trauma**

- I. AUTHORITY  
 Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE  
 To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL

<b>STANDING ORDERS</b>	
<b>ABCs</b>	
<b>SECURE AIRWAY</b>	Use simplest effective method while maintaining SSMR. A BLS airway with objective evidence of good ventilation and oxygenation is adequate and acceptable. Beyond BLS airway management refer to General Procedures Protocol 554.00
<b>SPINE IMMOBILIZATION</b>	If indicated refer to 554.80 Selective Spinal Movement Restriction
<b>OXYGEN</b>	Oxygen delivery as appropriate
<b>POSITION</b>	If patient is pregnant place patient on left side, or if in spinal immobilization, tilt spine board 30 degrees to the left.
<b>IV/IO ACCESS</b>	TKO
<b>DRESS WOUNDS</b>	Use hemostatic dressing if applicable
<b>CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p><b>Impaled Object</b> - Immobilize and leave in place. Remove object if it interferes with CPR, ventilation or extrication.</p> <p><b>Flail Chest</b> - Observe for tension pneumothorax. Consider assisted ventilation.</p> <p><b>Penetrating Chest Injury</b>- Cover wound. Dress wound loosely. Use appropriate chest seal device, or tape occlusive dressing on three sides over the wound. Continuously re-evaluate patient for the development of a tension pneumothorax.</p> <p><b>Tension Pneumothorax</b> - Perform needle thoracostomy or remove any occlusive dressing covering an open chest wound. Refer to the Tension Pneumothorax Protocol 554.23.</p> <p><b>Cardiac Tamponade</b> - If systolic BP less than 80mmHg, administer 250 cc fluid boluses until systolic BP reaches 80 mmHg. Reassess the patient after each bolus. Refer to the Traumatic Shock Protocol 554.82.</p> <p><b>Cardiac Contusion</b> - Monitor for dysrhythmias. Refer to Cardiac Protocols.</p>
<b>BASE PHYSICIAN ORDERS</b>	
<b>PAIN MANAGEMENT</b>	Refer to Pain Management Protocol 544.44