

RIB FRACTURES

TRANSFER CRITERIA

4 or fewer rib fractures (excluding 1st or 2nd)
Stable BP, RR<30, Pulse Ox>91% on no greater than 2L NC
Absence of PTX, Pulmonary contusion, widened mediastinum on CXR
Need for analgesia, pulmonary toilet
Consultation with Trauma Service

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Hemodynamic instability, hypoxia on 2L NC
PTX, pulmonary contusion, wide mediastinum, pleural effusion
Thoracic/Gen surg want to admit
Significant other trauma (long bone fracture, head injury)
Abdominal pain/tenderness

EC OBSERVATION UNIT INTERVENTIONS

Vitals, pulse ox q2 hours
Analgesics
Pulmonary toilet, incentive spirometer instruction
Serial CXR (r/o PTX, contusion)
Trauma consult

DISPOSITION PARAMETERS

HOME

Stable vital signs
No evidence of PTX, Pulmonary contusion, Pneumonia
Adequate oxygenation on patients previous O₂ requirement
Pain controlled with oral medications
Adequate incentive spirometer usage

HOSPITAL

In adequate pulmonary toilet
Poor incentive spirometer usage
Intractable pain
Hypoxia(<91%) on base line O₂ requirement
Evidence of PTX, pulmonary contusion, pneumonia on repeat CXR