MANAGEMENT OF EXTREMITY LACERATIONS

Orthopedics should be consulted for all suspected open fractures and open joints. Antibiotics should be given within 30 minutes of patient arrival. If a joint is injected to evaluate for an open joint, orthopedics will then also washout and close the laceration. A procedure note will be written. Trauma will follow orthopedic preference on dressing and wound management.

Lacerations not associated with a suspected open joint or fracture will be addressed by EM or Trauma. Procedure note should be completed. Wound should be adequately washed out. Consider OR for deep or large lacerations. Trauma will be in charge of all dressing orders and wound care.

QI: Cases that are thought to be inappropriate consults to orthopedics should be referred to Dr. Knight and a review will be done.