

HANDBOOK OF TRAUMA CARE

THE LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL
TRAUMA MANUAL

6th EDITION

EDITORS

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PREFACE TO 6TH EDITION

It has been a rewarding challenge to coordinate, edit, revise and complete a project involving so many contributors. This is the 6th edition of the Liverpool Hospital Trauma Handbook and it has been renamed "Handbook of Trauma Care - The Liverpool Hospital Trauma Manual." This is the first edition of this manual to be published in a pocket-book format to allow easier reference.

The goal of this 6th edition was to involve more of the many people at Liverpool Hospital who have a special interest or expertise in trauma care and who have been leaders in trauma care at local, national and international levels. By making this Handbook of Trauma Care a multidisciplinary and mainly practical approach to trauma care, we hope to increase the usability of this manual for all trauma caregivers who will read and carry it.

The intent of this manual is to provide users with a solid, consistent and practical approach to managing severely injured patients. No two patients present with the same clinical findings and injuries and it can be difficult to generalise rules to cover all clinical settings, however, the principles set out in this Handbook are safe and will guide the user appropriately. There is no substitution for the guidance that an experienced consultant can provide and he or she should always be included in decision-making for difficult cases.

As our knowledge of “better practice” expands and the specifics of day-to-day management of the injured patient are changed or improved, future versions of the Handbook of Trauma Care will be published. Additionally, we plan to maintain this manual as a “living document” with regular updates online at the Liverpool Trauma website:

www.swsahs.nsw.gov.au/livtrauma

The impact of injury and its effect on life quality and productivity in Australasia and around the world remains vastly underappreciated. Injury is still the leading cause of death in young people and is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in older patients. All those who are involved in care of the injured patient are encouraged to think, ask questions, and attend as many lectures, workshops and conferences as you can to expand your knowledge and better your abilities.

SCOTT K D'AMOURS

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It is impossible to complete a project like this without the help of others whose names do not necessarily appear in the list of contributing authors. The editors would like to thank all who contributed to the Handbook for their hard work and suggestions as to ways to improve this manual over previous editions.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
AUTHORS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
 SECTION 1	
TRAUMA SERVICE OVERVIEW AND ADMINISTRATION	
1. Liverpool Hospital and Southwest Sydney	3
2. Departments	7
3. Service Area	13
4. Trauma Hotline	21
5. Communications	27
6. Education	31
7. Trauma Registry	35
 SECTION 2	
TRAUMA TEAM	
1. Members, Roles and Responsibilities	41
2. Pre-Arrival Preparation	49
3. Activation Criteria	53
4. Universal Precautions	55
5. Team and Resource Management	57
6. Multiple Trauma Patients / Disaster Response	59
7. Resuscitation Room Documentation	61

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

	PAGE
SECTION 3	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	
1. Pre-Hospital Information and Hand-over	67
2. Primary Survey	69
3. Adjuncts to Primary Survey	75
4. Secondary Survey	77
5. Adjuncts to Secondary Survey	85
6. Investigations	89
7. Priorities and Sequencing	95
8. Fluids	97
SECTION 4	
MANAGEMENT ALGORITHMS	
1. Blunt Abdomen	107
2. Penetrating Abdomen	108
3. Widened Mediastinum	109
4. Penetrating Chest	110
5. Moribund Penetrating Chest	112
6. Penetrating Extremity	113
7. Penetrating Neck	114
8. Pelvic Fractures - Haemodynamic Instability	115
9. Cervical Spine Clearance	116
10. Suspected Spinal Cord Injury	117
11. Head Injury – Mild	118
12. Head Injury – Severe	119
13. Suspected Urethral Injury	120
14. Moribund Patient	121
15. MAST Suit Removal	122

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

	PAGE
SECTION 5	
PROCEDURES	
1. Extremity Immobilisation	127
2. Spinal Immobilisation	129
3. Venous Cutdown	131
4. Central Venous Catheters	135
5. Intraosseous Catheters	143
6. Arterial Lines	147
7. Chest Drains	151
8. Focused Abdominal Sonography in Trauma (FAST)	155
9. Diagnostic Peritoneal Aspiration (DPA) / Diagnostic Peritoneal Lavage (DPL)	161
10. ED Thoracotomy	167
11. Cricothyroidotomy	171
12. Pericardiocentesis	177
13. Medical Anti Shock Trousers (MAST)	179
14. Packing for Massive Nasopharyngeal Bleeding	183
SECTION 6	
DEFINITIVE CARE	
1. Decision Making	189
Decisions based on limited information	191
Goals in the second hour	193
Critical decision nodes	199
2. Documentation of Definitive Care	207
3. Prioritisation of Procedures and Investigations	209
4. Consent	213

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

	PAGE
SECTION 6	
DEFINITIVE CARE (CONT.)	
5. Admitting Doctor	217
6. Daily Patient Care and Follow-up	219
7. Tertiary Survey	221
8. Clinical Pathways	223
9. Thromboembolism and Tetanus Prophylaxis	225
10. Rehabilitation	229
11. Trauma Anaesthesia	235
 SECTION 7	
TRANSPORT AND DISPOSITION	
1. Intra-Hospital Transfer	243
2. Transferring Patients out of Liverpool Hospital	247
3. Patient Disposition	251
 SECTION 8	
SPECIAL SITUATIONS	
1. Paediatrics	257
2. Pregnancy	261
3. The Elderly	269
4. Hypothermia	273
5. Burns	287