

# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

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| Manual:     | Emergency Medical Services<br>Administrative Policies and Procedures | Policy<br>Number: 510.21 |
| Subject:    | Basic Life Support (BLS) Protocols                                   | Page: 1 of 1             |
|             | <b>CHEST TRAUMA</b>  |                          |
| References: | California Administrative Code, Title 22,<br>Division 9, Chapter 2   | Effective: 11/15/83      |

## I. TREATMENT

- A. Treat ABCs – Assessment and treatment.
- B. Consider spine immobilization.
- C. Oxygen - low flow 6 liters/minute by nasal cannula, high flow 15 liter/minute by non-rebreathing mask if in respiratory distress.
- D. Open Chest Wounds – Cover with vaseline impregnated gauze and tape on three sides loosely. If signs of tension pneumothorax develop (distended neck veins, cyanosis, tracheal shift, absent breath sounds on one side, falling BP, dyspnea), remove the dressing, allow air to escape, and reapply dressing.
- E. Flail Chest – You may use your hand or a pillow to make the patient more comfortable by stabilizing the injured area. Remove the pressure if respiration's deteriorate or if the pressure does not help the pain. Assist respiration's as needed.
- F. Do not remove impaled objects.
- G. Stabilize and transport (STAT transport if shock or respiratory distress).

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| Approved By:         |   | Revision:         |
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