

Kittitas County Prehospital Care Protocols

Subject: CHEST INJURIES

General

- A. Establish and maintain airway.
- B. If stable, administer O₂ @ 4-6 lpm per nasal cannula.
- C. If unstable, administer O₂ @ 12-15 lpm per non-rebreather mask.
- D. Establish cardiac monitor.
- E. Consider placement of endotracheal tube. Monitor closely for signs of tension pneumothorax.
- F. If BP < 90 mm Hg:
 - 1. Establish peripheral IV access with Normal Saline @ rate dependent on clinical findings.
 - 2. Always establish a large-bore line; consider two lines.
- G. If tension pneumothorax develops, decompress chest using needle thoracostomy @ the second intercostal space mid-clavicular line, or fifth intercostal space mid-axillary line.
- H. PASG is contraindicated in any isolated chest injury.

Effective Date: November 3, 2004

Medical Program Director: