	<b>Trauma Services</b>	No. 4091
	Title: <b>Pediatric Skull Fracture- WMR</b>	Page: 1 of 2 Effective Date: 07/17/2020

**Guideline Inclusion Criteria – (must have both 1 and 2)**

1. Linear, nondisplaced skull fracture
2. No intracranial findings on head CT

**Guideline Exclusion Criteria – (can have ANY of the following)**

1. Depressed fracture
2. Basilar skull fracture
3. Diastasis of fracture greater than 3 mm
4. GCS <14
5. Other traumatic injuries
6. Other co-morbidities (baseline neurologic disorder, bleeding disorders, bone abnormality, etc...)

**May consider discharge home from ED if ALL of the following are met...**

1. No significant extracranial injuries
2. No indications of intracranial injury (e.g., unremitting vomiting, abnormal neurologic exam)
3. Normal neurologic examination, including ability to alert easily
4. No concern for abusive head trauma (although maintain high index of suspicion)
5. Residence in close proximity to the hospital and reliable caretakers who are able to return with the child if necessary

**If discharge criteria not met admit to pediatric service:**

1. Call appropriate Pediatric service (floor vs. PICU) for admission.
2. If suspicion of abuse, contact CPS and obtain further imaging (skeletal survey).
3. Consult Trauma
4. Consider Neuropsychology consult if signs of concussion.

**Recommendations:**

1. CT imaging to be obtained approximately 1 hour post injury
2. If patient is asymptomatic, place in observation status for approximately 1 hour prior to discharge

**THIS POLICY IS CROSS REFERENCED IN:**

Neurosurgical Emergencies

**I. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Origination date:** 06/28/2017


**Prepared by:** MGR, TRAUMA PROGRAM

**Approved by:** MED DIR, TRAUMA

**Reviewed:** 07/17/2020

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- a. **Up to date:** May 2020 Skull fractures in children: **Author-** Shireen Atbaki, MD, MPH, FAAB **Section Editor-**Richard G Bachur, MD **Deputy Editor-**James F Wiley, II, MD, MPH
- b. **Pediatrics:** Vol. 135, Number 4, April 2015, Powell, et. Al...
- c. Donaldson K, Li X, Satorelli KH, Weimersheimer P, Durham SR. Management of isolated skull fractures in pediatric patients: A systematic review. *Pediatr Emerg Care.* 2019; 35: 301-308

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