



Queensland
Trauma Education

TRAUMA AND THE OLDER PERSON

Chest trauma

Case discussion

Participant resource kit

CSDS



Clinical Skills Development Service



Queensland
Government

Queensland Trauma Education

The resources developed for Queensland Trauma Education are designed for use in any Queensland Health facility that cares for patients who have been injured as a result of trauma. Each resource can be modified by the facilitator and scaled to the learners needs as well as the environment in which the education is being delivered, from tertiary to rural and remote facilities.

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Queensland

Queensland Trauma Education

**Trauma and the Older Person – Chest trauma: Case discussion – Participant resource kit
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About this training resource kit

This resource kit provides healthcare workers with the knowledge to effectively assess and manage the elderly patient with blunt chest trauma.

National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards



Learning objectives

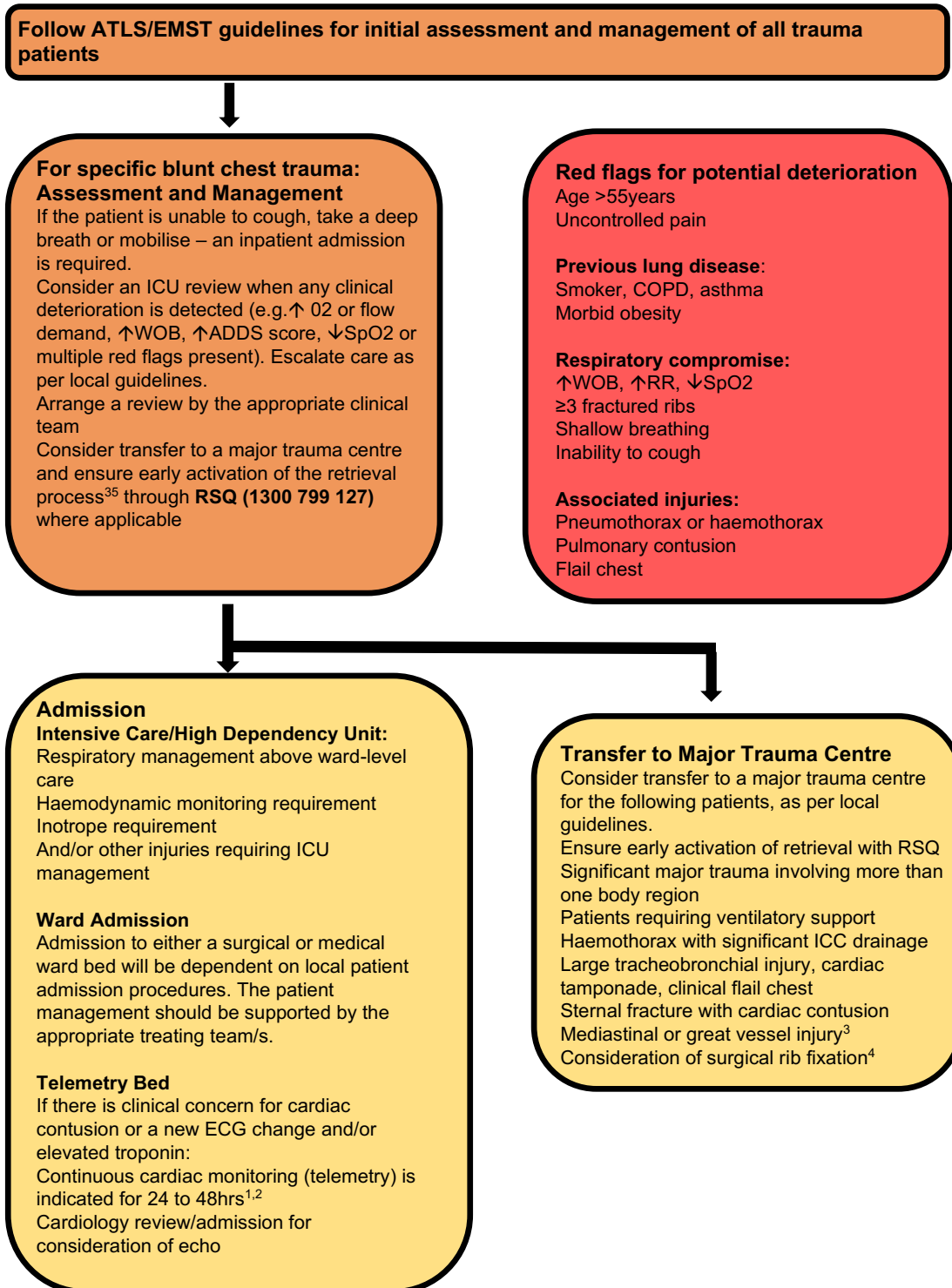
By the end of this session the participant will be able to:

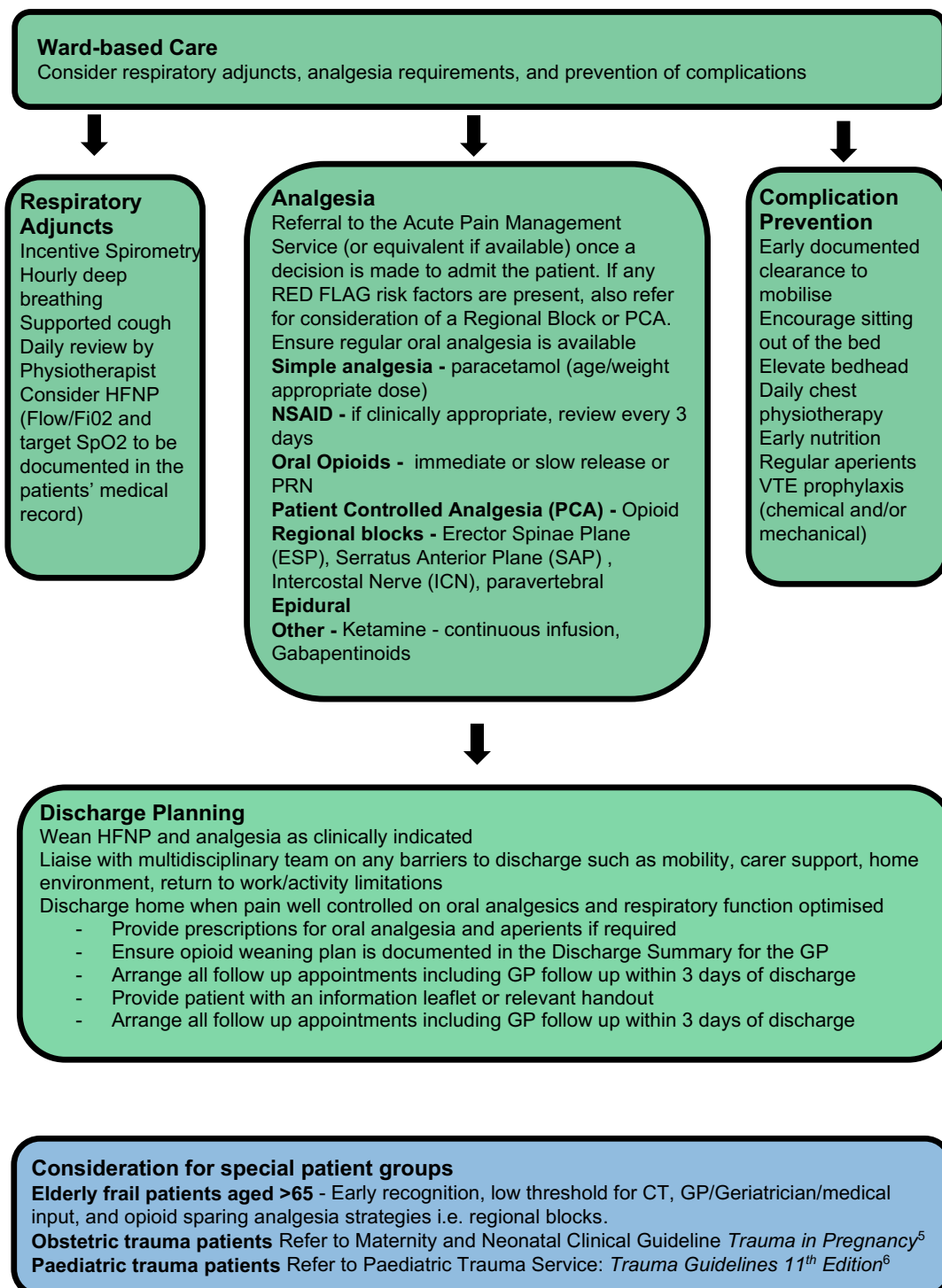
- Recognise the risk for significant injury with low velocity trauma in the elderly.
- Assess the impact of co-morbidities and frailty on injury and management options.
- Perform a multi-disciplinary approach to care.
- Understand a patient centred focus with attention to the barriers to effective treatment.

Supporting resources

- Clinical Practice Guideline: Flowchart: Blunt Chest Trauma - Queensland Health

Flowchart: Blunt Chest Trauma





Overview of blunt chest trauma in the older person

The poorer outcomes in the elderly trauma population with rib fractures following blunt chest trauma is likely to be multifactorial and related in part to reduced physiological reserve and the contribution of medical comorbidities. They also suffer an increased rate of complications from the injury and hospital admission when compared to a younger cohort.^{1,2}

Given the increased susceptibility to complications, the provision of adequate analgesia to allow the patient with rib fractures to maintain an appropriate respiratory tidal volume will prevent atelectasis, pneumonia and other pulmonary complications.³

Further reading

Comprehensive approach to the management of the patient with multiple rib fractures: a review and introduction of a bundled rib fracture management protocol	
Publication	Trauma Surgery & Acute Care
Link	http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/tsaco-2016-000064

Rib fractures in the elderly	
Publication	J Trauma
Link	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10866248/

Acronyms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
CT	computed tomography
PCA	patient controlled analgesia

References

1. Witt CE, Bulger EM. Comprehensive approach to the management of the patient with multiple rib fractures: a review and introduction of a bundled rib fracture management protocol. *Trauma Surgery & Acute Care Open* 2017;2:e000064.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/tsaco-2016-000064>
2. Bulger E, Arneson M, Mock C, Jurkovich G. Rib Fractures in the Elderly. *The Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection, and Critical Care: June 2000 – 48:6 – p1040-1047*
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10866248/>

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