

# Blunt Chest Trauma: Management

1

## Rib fracture score (RFS)

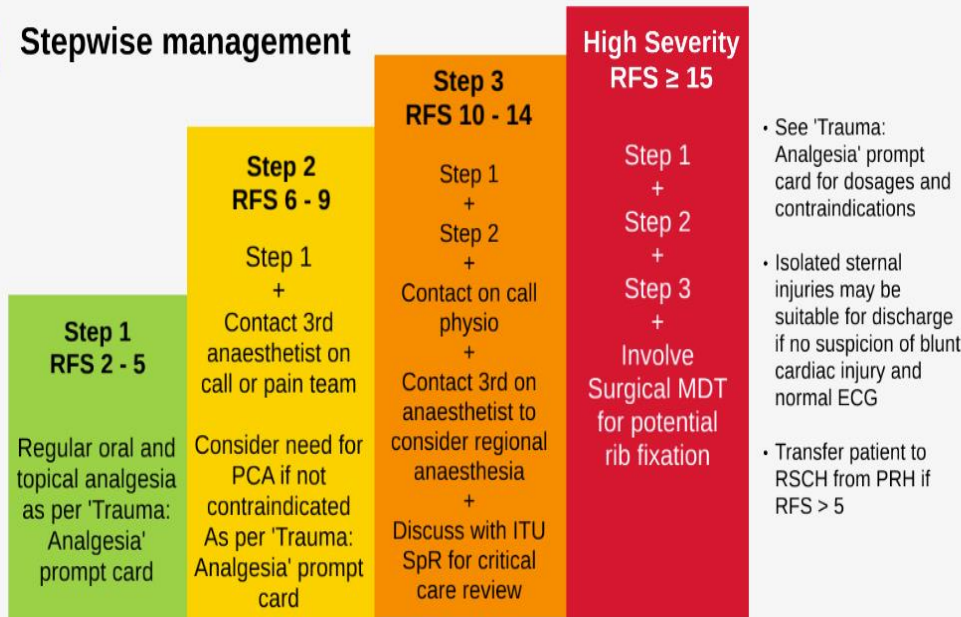
(Number of fractures **X** sides affected) + Age range index, as per below

< 50 yo = 1  
51 - 60 = 2  
61 - 70 = 3  
71 - 80 = 4  
> 80 yo = 5

Example: For an 84 year old woman with 3 left sided rib fractures and 2 right  
RFS = ((3+2) x 2) + 5 = 15

2

## Stepwise management



Lead: D Bootland, J Chan

Prompt Card by: J Castle

Implemented Oct 2021

3

## Gen Surg Referral

If the patient needs admission for analgesia or observation

AND

## Critical Care Referral

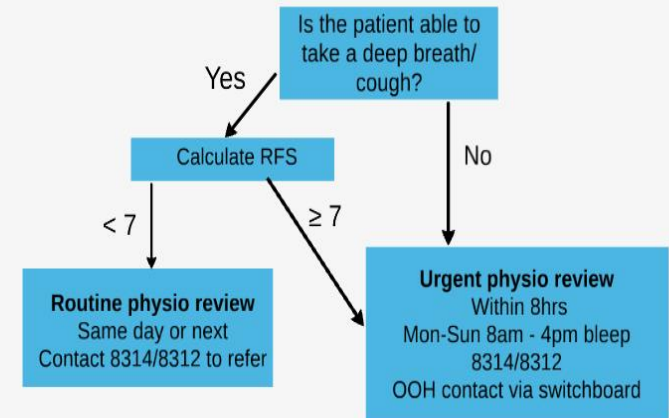
If any of the following:

- RFS score ≥ 10
- Flail chest or rib fractures with pneumothorax
- Clinical deterioration: SpO2 < 94%, RR > 30
- FiO2 requirements ≥ 40%
- Co-existing presence of significant cardiac or respiratory disease
- Evidence of blunt cardiac injury

AND

## Chest Physio Referral

(for inpatients only)



Version 6.0

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