The University of Chicago Hospitals
Emergency Department Protocols

**Odontogenic Infection:**

The University of Chicago Hospitals (“UCH”) currently does not have the capacity to treat patients presenting to the Emergency Department (“ED”) with serious odontogenic infection requiring operative drainage, extraction, and/or inpatient admission and, therefore, does not have on-call coverage for this specialty service. Because UCH does not have the capacity to treat serious odontogenic infections, UCH will follow the protocol below for all individuals presenting with such a condition regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay:

A UCH ED physician or other Qualified Medical Person (“QMP”) will provide an appropriate medical screening examination to all individuals to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists. To aid in ascertaining if there are any airway issues or other similar concerns, the ED physician will page the ENT or Plastic Surgery resident or attending on call, who shall then provide requisite consultation. If a UCH physician or other QMP determines that an emergency medical condition exists, UCH will provide necessary stabilizing treatment to the extent of the capability of its staff and facilities to minimize risk to the individual and then initiate an appropriate transfer. Stroger Cook County Hospital (CCH), at the direction of Dr. Sisto, Chief of Oral Surgery, has agreed to accept in transfer UCH patients with serious odontogenic infections if CCH has the space and qualified personnel available for treatment. In such cases, the UCH physician will contact CCH Oral Surgery resident at [insert telephone number or contact information] to determine if CCH can accept the patient and to coordinate an appropriate transfer. If CCH does not have the capacity to accept the patient in transfer, UCH will use its best efforts to transfer the patient to another facility with such capacity. Please refer to UCH administrative Policy A03-03/PC 10, “Hospital Transfers,” and Emergency Department Policy and Procedure, XXXX, for more detail.

If UCH resolves the individual’s emergency medical condition, UCH can discharge the patient with follow-up instructions so long as the care and treatment can be performed as an outpatient or later as an inpatient. The discharge instructions can include the directive to follow up with a physician at CCH’s Oral Surgery Clinic as appropriate provided UCH and CCH have agreed to such an arrangement. (UCH will first contact the CCH Oral Surgery resident prior to giving such instructions to the patient).

This protocol is subject to amendment in conjunction with any changes in the resources of UCH’s dentistry program.
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*Mandible and other Facial Fractures*

UCH has the capacity to treat patients presenting to the ED with facial/mandibular fractures through its Facial Trauma Service. The Service will accept patients with facial/mandibular fractures for either admission or follow-up in clinic as appropriate to the patient’s medical condition. UCH will follow this protocol for all patients presenting to the ED with facial/mandibular fractures regardless of his or her insurance status or ability to pay.