



FAST Exam Quality Assurance Guideline

Purpose: Defines the Quality Assurance/Improvement process for retrospective review of FAST exams performed in the Emergency Department (ED), to enhance technical competence and clinical accuracy of FAST interpretation.

Scope: ED physicians and trauma surgeons who perform FAST exams in the ED.

Guideline: The initial FAST exam is to be performed immediately after the primary survey of the ATLS protocol on ***all hemodynamically unstable blunt 911 trauma activations*** to determine if there is traumatic free fluid into the peritoneal, pleural, or pericardial spaces. The eFAST is used to evaluate the pleural cavity for pneumothorax. Quality improvement and quality assurance methods provide an opportunity for non-punitive evaluation and feedback regarding accuracy of exams when compared to CT exams or intraoperative findings.

Quality Assurance Process:

1. Trauma Medical Director will review and compare FAST exam results to CT findings and/or OR findings.
2. ED Trauma Liaison will be notified of FAST exams completed by ED providers.
3. Feedback will be provided to ED physicians by the ED Trauma Liaison and to Trauma Surgeons by one of the Trauma Medical Directors.

Attachments and Forms:

1. FAST documentation form.

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY

Review/Revision Date	Approved by:
Created 12/2020	Trauma Services
Revised 02/2022	Trauma Services
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