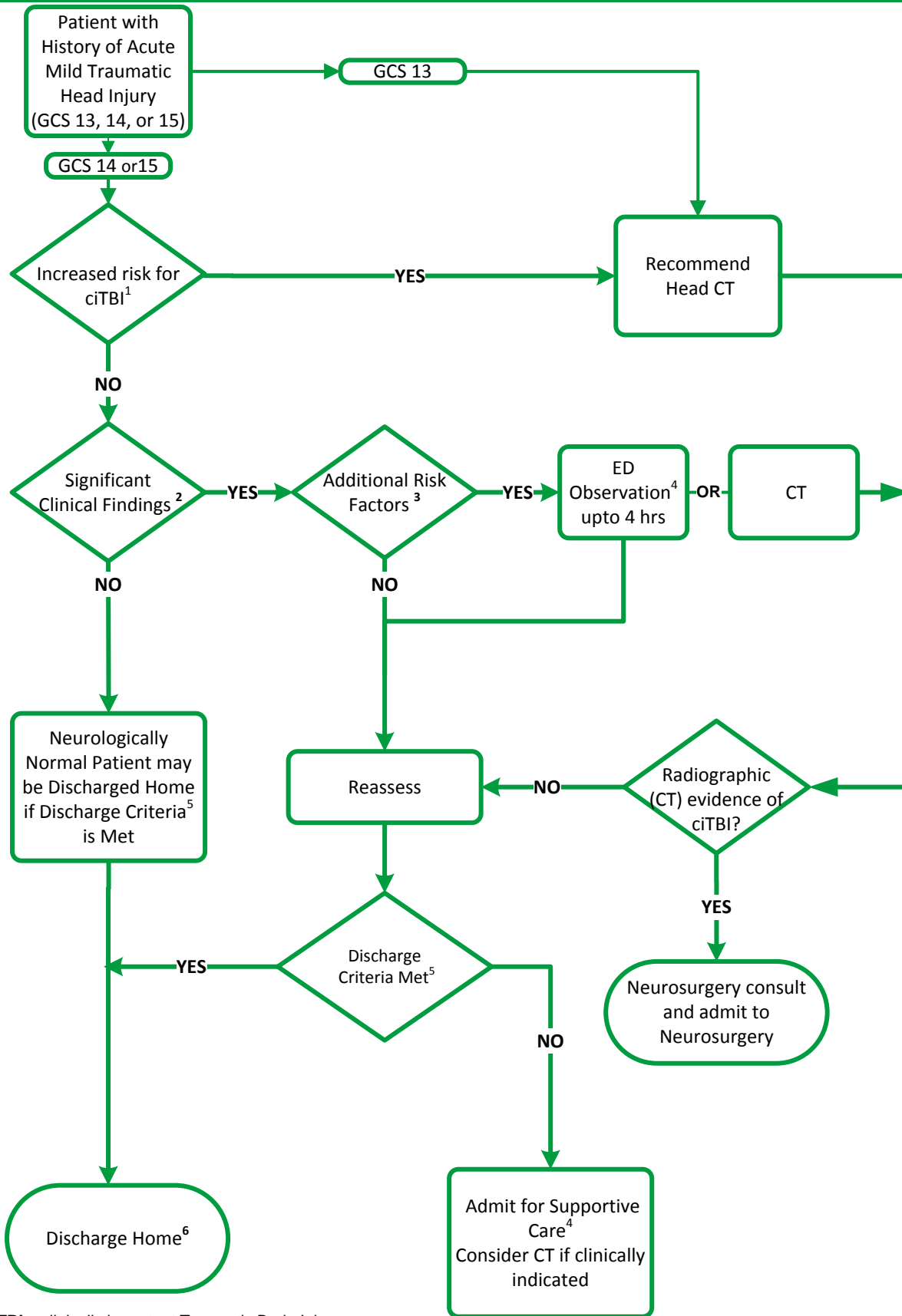


# Emergency Department: Acute Mild Traumatic Head Injury (GCS ≥ 13 ) CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

INITIAL 4.13.11  
UPDATED 3.3.16  
UPDATED 6.18.19



### <sup>1</sup>Increased risk for ciTBI

- Evidence of Skull Fracture
- Abnormal Neurological exam

### <sup>2</sup>Significant Clinical Findings

- Altered Mental Status such as Agitation, Persistent/Deep Somnolence or Repetitive Questioning
- Persistent Slow Response to Verbal Communication
- Occipital, Parietal or Temporal hematoma
- Severe Headache
- Multiple Emesis
- Severe mechanism of injury:
  - Motor Vehicle Crash with Ejection
  - Death of another passenger
  - Rollover
  - Pedestrian or bicyclist w/o helmet struck by motor vehicle
  - Fall > 5 feet if > 2 years; > 3 feet if < 2 years.
  - Head struck by high-impact object

### <sup>3</sup>Additional Risk Factors

- Multiple symptoms
- Loss of consciousness
- Worsening signs or symptoms
- Younger infant
- Delayed onset seizure
- Persistent GCS of 13 or 14

### <sup>4</sup>ED Observation

- Close observation and frequent reassessment are recommended upto 4 hrs.
- If worsening obtain CT
- If there is a high speed mechanism with the isolated head injury; admit to Neurosurgery\*

### <sup>5</sup>Discharge Criteria

- Pain & Emesis controlled
- Caretakers understand Discharge Care Instructions
- Caretakers able to return to ED if symptoms worsen

### <sup>6</sup>Discharge Home

- Discharge using current Concussion teaching sheet which includes:
  - PCP follow-up information
  - Detailed Activity Restrictions
  - Return to School
  - Return to Play
- Provide Contact # for Concussion Program Nurse **404-785-KIDS (5437)**, select option 3, and ask for concussion nurse.

**ciTBI** clinically important Traumatic Brain Injury  
**GCS** Glasgow Coma Scale  
**LOC** Loss of Consciousness  
**PCP** Primary Care Physician

Developed through the efforts of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and physicians on Children's medical staff in the interest of advancing pediatric healthcare. This guideline is a general guideline and does not represent a professional care standard governing providers' obligation to patients. Ultimately the patient's physician must determine the most appropriate care. © 2016 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc.