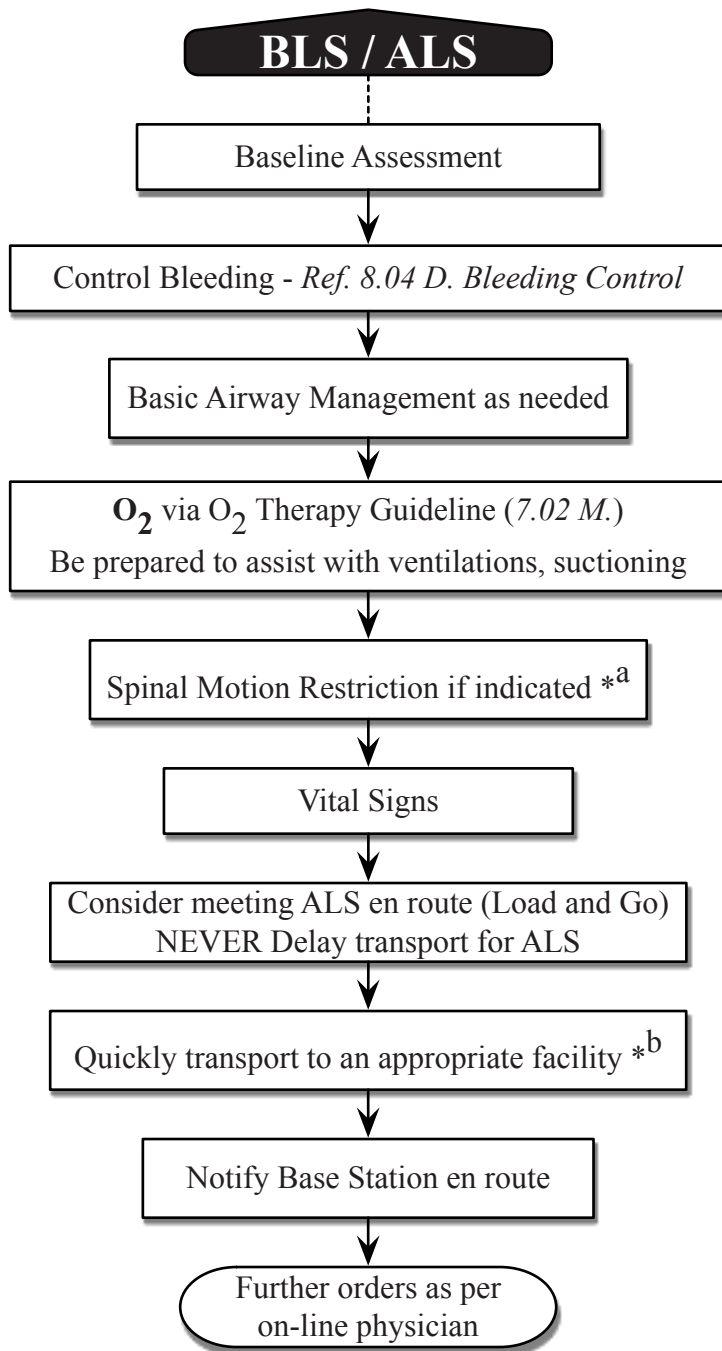


## 8.04 B. General Guidelines for All Trauma Patients



*If at any time a tension pneumothorax is suspected, quickly perform a unilateral needle thoracostomy on the affected side (Ref. 7.02 J. Needle Thoracostomy)*

*Patients with suspected tension pneumothorax must have one of the following in addition to 'unilateral absence of breath sounds' in order to be eligible for possible needle thoracostomy :*

- 1 - systolic BP < 100 mmHg*
- 2 - grunting respirations*
- 3 - agitation*
- 4 - subcutaneous air / emphysema*
- 5 - deviated trachea*

### *Assessment Considerations*

*The secondary assessment on major trauma patients should be done en route to the hospital. Do not delay transport of an obvious major trauma patient to conduct a secondary survey.*

*\*<sup>a</sup> Reference 8.04 J. "Spinal Motion Restriction" Guideline*

*\*<sup>b</sup> Ref. Table 8-7 "Criteria for Trauma Center Transport"*