ity have refused to consent, should obtain a written refusal from those with parental responsibility.

RESTRAINT
Physical restraint is only lawful where it is kept to the minimum necessary for the protection of a minor.

Comment
Implementation of the guidelines requires their approval by legal experts in the hospitals in which they are to be used.

We are grateful to Claire Hadley for her expertise in designing the flow charts and to Ricci Capalbo for typing the manuscript. Without the advice of the other members of the Working Party the guidelines would not have been possible: Tony Saunders, Zam Bati, Chris Hardie, Ruth Dixon, Dennis O'Leary, Jim Isherwood, Susan Lowson, Mike Tomasso.

Suggested reading

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**EMERGENCY CASEBOOK**

**Multiple rib fractures with contralateral pneumothorax**

At 1 am, several hours after being involved in a road traffic accident, a 28 year old female presented to an accident and emergency department with right sided chest pain. She had been the restrained front seat passenger of a car involved in a collision with another vehicle, but it was not initially appreciated that this had been a head-on impact.

![Rib fractures of the right 6th to 9th ribs are present. The top edge of a left apical pneumothorax is just visible running along the line of the 6th rib.](image)

Physical examination only revealed anterior chest wall tenderness and an initial radiograph demonstrated fractures of the right 6th to 9th ribs. Following treatment she was discharged home with analgesics.

A subsequent xray report also noted a left sided apical pneumothorax with its upper edge running along the line of the 6th rib (figure). The patient was recalled, and successfully treated with a chest drain.

It is unusual for a pneumothorax to be found on the contralateral side to rib fractures. This presumably was a consequence of barotrauma (paper bag effect) at the time of the collision.

This case illustrates the need to make a systemic analysis of all radiographs, and have a clear grasp of the kinematics of injuries. In the early hours of the morning medical staff can be caught unawares by unusual clinical cases, and only by attention to detail can mistakes be avoided.

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