



Issue: Pelvic Trauma Belts

Raised by: Dr Finn Coulter (RDH ED Registrar)

Background: Suggestion from AirMed retrieval staff that pelvic belts / slings would be beneficial as additional standard emergency equipment.

Discussion: The use of pelvic belts / slings to stabilise suspected or confirmed pelvic fractures has been increasingly recognised as valuable in clinical management of certain trauma victims. Pelvic belts can significantly reduce pain levels and enhance resuscitation efforts.

It is noted that trauma management protocols being reviewed for CARPA STM 5th Edition, will likely recommend use of pelvic belts.

Various products were looked at by Best Practice Group considering ease of application, versatility, cost, and radio-translucency. The *T-POD* belt is the preferred product. The main drawback is that the *T-POD* belt isn't able to be used on small children or very obese clients, although the one size does cater for a considerable range of sizes. Other products come in differing sizes, but cost and storage becomes an issue when multiple stock are required, as well as other reviewed products generally being less suitable in other regards.

Cost of a single *T-POD* belt is \$149.

While agreement that pelvic belts are a justified addition to standard emergency equipment, debate was held on whether pelvic belts should be standard across all RHB sites versus limited to sites with higher rates of trauma. It was agreed that uniform distribution is appropriate.

Pelvic belts are able to be re-used, however they will almost invariably stay with a client throughout retrieval. They may also become heavily soiled and a decision to discard may be reasonable. Cleaning would otherwise be managed according to the guidelines for cleaning of linen described in Atlas Section 27.7 ([Instrument Cleaning and Sterilisation](#)).

Training and familiarisation will need to occur for clinical staff, including inclusion in relevant aspects of formal training. Two product documents, [T-POD Instruction and Use](#) and [T-POD Protocol](#) are helpful and will be distributed with initial stock. Online [videos](#) showing application of the *T-POD* belt is a simple way for clinical staff to appreciate basic application features.

Consultation: RDH Emergency Dept staff, Airmed, St John Ambulance

References: Product websites

Outcome: **A pelvic belt is recommended for inclusion in the standard Cervical Collar Kit (this forms part of the standard emergency equipment).**

- Initial purchase and distribution of *T-POD* belts will be managed centrally
- The Cervical Collar Kit contents list will be updated and distributed accordingly
- Replacement of stock will be via the [Remote Health Stock](#) ordering process