

FLAIR CHEST

DISCLAIMER:

*The information contained in this document has been compiled from sources believed to be reliable at the time and is presented here as a study aid and for general information use only. This information is not intended to **replace** or **supercede** the information or procedures outlined in your first aid textbook, other officially issued study materials or government published acts or legislative documents.*

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, the authors are not responsible for any loss, liability, damage or injury that may be suffered or incurred by any person in connection with the information contained on this site, or by anyone who receives first aid treatment from a reader or user of this information.

Flail chest happens when several ribs in the same area are broken in more than one place. This injured part is called a "flail".

Signs and symptoms of a flail chest:

- Inconsistent chest movement.
- Painful breathing
- Bruising at the injured side

First aid for a flail chest

- ESM (scene survey). Tell casualty not to move when suspecting major injuries.
- Support the head and neck in a steady position.
- Check airway and breathing
- Expose and look at the injury if the injured person complains it is difficult for them to breathe and they are having chest pains.
- Try supporting the injured area with casualty's hand or your hand, it may help to make breathing easier.
- Give first aid for ineffective breathing if needed (mentioned above).
- Check circulation and give first aid if needed.
- Give ongoing casualty care until medical help arrived. Monitor the ABC's as much as possible.