

## **Forearm/hand Surgery Information Sheet Pediatric Section of the Orthopaedic Department**

**General indications for the procedure:** Indications for the procedure include fracture non union (if the fracture is not healing), fracture malunion (if the fracture has healed in an unacceptable position), unacceptable position of the fracture, as well as deformity of the extremity.

**Description of the procedure:** After the patient is put to sleep, an attempt will be made to reduce the fracture by manipulating the extremity and checking the position with a fluroscan machine. This is a special xray machine that allows the physician to check the fracture position as well as check the stability of the fracture radiographically. If acceptable alignment cannot be met or the fracture is unstable then the surgery will proceed with either a closed reduction and pinning (pushing on the bones and putting them in acceptable alignment and holding the position with a pin or intramedullary rod) or an open reduction and internal fixation (making an incision, visualizing the fracture, positioning the fracture in acceptable position and placing hardware for stability).

If the surgery is addressing soft tissue contratures, the contracture will be identified and addressed.

**Risks of the procedure:** Risks of the procedure include yet are not limited to infection, bleeding, damage to nerves or vessels, refracture, loss of reduction, non union, malunion as well as need for further surgery exist.

**Procedure alternatives:** The alternative to the procedure would be observation.

**Probable consequences of refusing the procedure:** The probable consequences of refusing the procedure could include: worsening of the fracture position with further loss of reduction, deformity of the extremity, loss of range of motion, as well as worsening of the contracture.

**Person(s) performing the procedure:** The procedure will be performed by the attending surgeon who is a member of the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center and/or resident/fellow under the direct supervision of the attending surgeon. Resident/Fellows are licensed physicians in approved residency or post residency training programs. Parts of the procedure which they perform will be consistent with hospital policy and based on their level of training.