



MINNESOTA STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM



New Trauma System LPN Training Criteria

At the March 2011 meeting, the STAC adopted criteria establishing minimal trauma training requirements for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) who provide care to major trauma patients in designated hospitals. All designated hospitals must attain the new LPN criteria, or have in place a plan to attain it, by July 1, 2012.

This change was necessary because current criteria do not distinguish between LPNs and registered nurses, resulting in significant gaps in trauma training for LPNs.

Please contact Chris Ballard at 651-201-3841 or chris.ballard@state.mn.us with any questions.

Trauma Hospital Designations

In the past five months, 11 hospitals have either designated (five) or re-designated (six) as trauma hospitals.

New Level IVs: Mercy Hospital, Moose Lake; Rainy Lake Medical Center, International Falls

New Level IIIs: Lake Region Healthcare, Fergus Falls (changed from level IV to III); Lakeview Hospital, Stillwater; United Hospital, St. Paul

Re-designated Level IIIs: Fairview Red Wing; Unity Hospital, Fridley; Queen of Peace Hospital, New Prague; St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Shakopee

Re-designated Level IVs: Melrose Area Hospital, Wheaton Community Hospital.

In other trauma hospital news, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) recently re-verified North Memorial Medical Center as a Level I Adult center and a Level II Pediatric center.

To date, Minnesota has **119 designated trauma hospitals**, not including the four ACS pediatric centers, with two more in process. This foundational work ensures that trained provider teams at every one of these hospitals are ready 24 hours a day to provide coordinated emergent care to the most critically injured people. It also means that EMS providers have more local transport options to receive initial life-saving stabilization for their patients. Congratulations to all who have made this commitment to your communities, citizens and visitors such a priority.

You can locate each of the current trauma hospitals along with contact information online. Contact Chris Ballard at 651-201-3841 or chris.ballard@state.mn.us for more information or to set up a free consultation.

Trauma Registry Remained Live During State Shutdown

Designated trauma hospitals were able to continue submitting and utilizing their data during the state shutdown because ImageTrend, the registry vendor, continued to provide support and hosting services—although uncompensated. All providers greatly appreciated ImageTrend’s voluntary decision.

RTAC Updates

Five of Minnesota's six regional trauma advisory committees (RTAC) are active and working on improving trauma care. It is remarkable how much work is already being accomplished, and in such a short time. Specific RTAC and contact information is available at trauma system RTACs, including links to the sites three regions developed: WESTAC, SMRTAC and CENTRAC.

Level III Surgeon Response Criteria Review

STAC is forming a workgroup to conduct a thorough assessment of the overall role of general surgeons at level III facilities, including a specific focus on the current level III surgeon response criteria. The workgroup will formulate recommendations for modification if necessary.

STAC Chair Dr. Al Brown will make appointments to the workgroup within the next several weeks, with hopes that the group can begin work prior to the September 27 STAC meeting.

Please contact Tim Held at 651-201-3868 or tim.held@state.mn.us with any questions.

State Performance Improvement Initiatives

After five years of infrastructure design and development (e.g., designating hospitals, establishing a registry and RTACs), STAC has formally launched the statewide trauma system into its next phase: System PI (Performance Improvement)! Along with STAC, many state and regional stakeholders are ready to begin measuring and assessing their efforts to reduce morbidity and mortality from injury. A portion of every STAC meeting will now be dedicated to PI. Audience expertise and participation are welcome.

At the June STAC meeting, Paul Jansen, researcher for the state trauma system, provided an initial report to validate whether or not all cases that belong in MNTRAUMA are present. The STAC will continue to refine and assess this report in September.

Trauma System Calendar

A calendar of all system-related events, such as site visits, RTAC and committee meetings is now available at the trauma system web page. Please contact Tim Held at 651- 201-3868 or tim.held@state.mn.us with any additions.

Next Meeting

The next STAC meeting will be September 27, 2011, from 12:30-3:30 p.m., in the Mississippi Room at Snelling Office Park.