

e-Trauma Update

May 2020

Effective Dates Extended for Trauma Hospital Designations

Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Malcolm has extended the effective dates of every hospital's trauma designation by one year to help reduce demands on hospitals and the health care workforce already stressed by the COVID-19 response. This action suspends re-designation site visits until spring 2021 and defers each hospital's deadline to submit a re-designation application for one year. [View the commissioner's waivers and modifications.](#)

The move follows [Executive Order 20-32 \(PDF\)](#), which Governor Walz issued on April 8, to permit the commissioner to delay, waive, or modify certain provisions of law, as necessary, to allow Minnesota's health care system to adjust to the immediate demands of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Hospitals designated as a Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 Trauma Hospital will have one year added to the expiration date of their current designation.
 - Re-designation site visits scheduled to occur in 2020 will be rescheduled to spring 2021.
 - Focused site visits scheduled to occur in 2020 to validate compliance with a previously-identified deficiency will go forward as planned. These focused visits will be carried out remotely.
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Requirements Modified for Trauma Hospital Designation

At an April 22 emergency meeting, the State Trauma Advisory Council (STAC) temporarily modified several Level 3 and 4 Trauma Hospital designation criteria to alleviate some of the demands on hospitals' health care workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some modifications approved by the STAC include:

- Temporarily suspended trauma training requirements.
- Extended maximum timeframes to perform primary and secondary performance improvement reviews.
- Suspended required participation in regional trauma advisory committee (RTAC) meetings and injury prevention activities.

[Visit the trauma system website for details.](#)

Most criteria remain in place, even though current hospital trauma designations have been extended, and some requirements have been temporarily modified. Leaders of hospital trauma programs are encouraged to [contact the designation coordinator](#) to discuss strategies for meeting the designation criteria requirements during this time of changing resource allocation.

Free Trauma Education Offered

Since in-person Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) classes have been suspended, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) is offering free access to online trauma education. The *Initial Assessment Learning Resource* includes access to the *MyALTS* app, the 9th edition ATLS manual, the initial assessment training module from *mALTS 10th Edition*, and several instructional videos from *mATLS 10th Edition*.

The materials can provide knowledge for those who are responsible for the resuscitation of trauma patients but who are not able to take a formal ATLS course. It is not a substitute for a full ATLS course, nor does it satisfy trauma system training requirements. But it can be a useful resource for those who have never taken an ATLS course and for those looking for a refresher.

The offer also includes access to several resources from the *Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma* (ASSET) course.

[Visit the ACS's website](#) to learn more about these free educational resources.

June STAC Meeting to be Conducted Remotely

The State Trauma Advisory Council will conduct their June 2, 2020, meeting remotely. [Visit the trauma system website](#) for information about the meeting, including instructions about how to attend.
