

e-Trauma Update

October 2022

Share Your Comments About Proposed Level 3 and 4 Designation Criteria Clarification Updates

At their September meeting, the State Trauma Advisory Council (STAC) discussed the need to clarify newly adopted Level 3 and Level 4 Trauma Hospital Designation Criteria. The recently overhauled criteria were implemented in January 2020, but shortly after several criteria were suspended due to the pandemic. Trauma hospital designations were also suspended for 18 months.

With designations now back on schedule and the criteria suspensions due to expire at the end of the year, the STAC will consider adopting helpful clarifications to the new criteria at its meeting on December 6, 2022.

Generally, only clarifications are being discussed now, but one criterion change is on the table too: To change the blood bank requirement from O–negative blood to any type–O blood. The change is considered necessary to address the blood supply shortage.

All are invited to review and comment on these clarifications ahead of the December STAC meeting. [Download the proposed housekeeping updates](#) from the trauma system website. [Email your comments](#) in support of or in opposition to them to the statewide trauma system by November 21, 2022.

Work Group to Consider Need to Revise Level 4 Trauma Hospital Admission Limits

The Level 4 Trauma Hospital Designation Criteria implemented in 2020 includes a new section describing the types of trauma patients that can be considered for admission. Recent stresses on the health care system, and on Level 1 and 2 Trauma Hospitals in particular, have made it more challenging to transfer trauma patients to a higher level of care. The STAC will convene a work group to address these recent challenges and recommend modifications to the criteria, if needed.



The work group is expected to meet over the winter and report to the STAC in March. Those interested in participating in the work group should [notify the trauma system coordinator](#) by email.

Expert Panel Releases New EMS Trauma Field Triage Recommendations



Last year a panel of experts published [National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients](#). Their recommendations serve as an update to the *Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients* published by the Centers for Disease Control in 2011. They describe the process for distinguishing seriously injured patients who requires care at a designated trauma hospital from those with minor injuries.

[Minnesota's EMS Field Trauma Triage Guideline \(PDF\)](#) was adopted in 2009 and was based on the 2006 recommendations. The STAC-EMS

Regulatory Board Joint Policy Committee will review the new recommendations, compare them with Minnesota's guideline at their meeting on December 6, 2022, and suggest changes, if needed.

New Trauma System Designation Coordinator Joins the Team!

The statewide trauma system is excited to welcome LynMaree Harris, R.N., to the team as the new designation coordinator. LynMaree joins Tammy Peterson as the second designation coordinator and replaces Marty Forseth, who retired in June. She will be working directly with hospitals to support their trauma programs.

LynMaree brings almost 20 years of emergency and trauma care experience to the trauma system. Prior to joining the state trauma system staff, she served as the trauma program manager for both Sanford Bemidji and Sanford Bagley Medical Centers. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing and is a Trauma Certified Registered Nurse (TCRN). Welcome, LynMaree!



Several STAC Members' Terms Concluding Soon

The terms of several STAC members will be coming to an end in January. It's not too early to begin thinking about applying for one of these offices or encouraging some you know to consider it:

- Level 1 or 2 Trauma Program Manager
- Rural Level 3 or 4 Family Medicine Emergency Physician
- Rural EMS Attendant or Ambulance Director
- Orthopedic Surgeon
- Pediatrician or Pediatric Surgeon
- Emergency Medicine Physician

The official vacancy notices will be posted in November, after which applications can be submitted. For more information about the qualifications for these offices, visit the [Minnesota legislature website](#) or watch your e-Trauma Updates for future announcements.

Four Trauma Hospitals Recently Designated!



Congratulation to St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth (Level 2), Grand Itasca Clinics and Hospital in Grand Rapids (Level 3), Mayo Clinic Health System-Waseca (Level 4), and Stevens Community Medical Center in Morris (Level 4) for successfully achieving re-designation as trauma hospitals!

