

**RULES  
OF  
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 420-2-2**

**ALABAMA STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM**



**EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

420-2-2-.01	General .....
420-2-2-.02	Trauma Center Standards .....
420-2-2-.03	Trauma Center Designation.....
420-2-2-.04	Statewide Trauma Advisory Council.....
420-2-2-.05	Alabama Trauma Region Designation.....
420-2-2-.06	Alabama Regional Trauma Advisory Councils.....
420-2-2-.07	Patient Entry Criteria.....
420-2-2-.08	Patient Entry for Pre-Hospital.....
420-2-2-.09	Trauma Registry.....
420-2-2-.10	Centralized Dispatch and Communications System .....
420-2-2-.11	Air Ambulance Activation Requirements .....
420-2-2-.12	Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement .....
420-2-2-.13	Confidentiality.....
420-2-2-.14	Statewide Trauma System Fund .....

**420-2-2-.01 General.**

(1) **Legal Authority for Adoption of Rules.** Under and by virtue of authority vested in it by the Legislature of Alabama, Act 299, Regular Session, 2007( §22-11D-1,et seq. *Ala. Code 1975*), the State Board of Health does hereby adopt and promulgate the following rules to govern the Alabama Statewide Trauma System.

(2) **Definitions.**

- (a) The Board. The Alabama State Board of Health.
- (b) The Council. The Statewide Trauma Advisory Council.
- (c) The Department. The Alabama Department of Public Health.
- (d) Designated Trauma Center. A hospital that has met all the standards for trauma center designation as set out in these rules and that has been certified by the Department.
- (e) Designation. A formal determination by the Department that a hospital is capable of providing designated trauma care.
- (f) ED. Emergency Department.
- (g) EMT. Emergency Medical Technician.
- (h) The Fund. The Statewide Trauma System Fund.
- (i) Hospital. A health institution that has been licensed pursuant to the Board's Hospital Rules, Chapter 420-5-7, *Ala. Admin. Code* and that has a functioning ED.
- (j) ICU. Intensive Care Unit.
- (k) May. This indicates permissive requirements.
- (l) Office of EMS and Trauma. The Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma.
- (m) OR. Operating Room.
- (n) QA/QI. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement.
- (o) Regional Councils. The regional trauma advisory councils.
- (p) Regions. The trauma care regions.
- (q) The Registry. The Statewide Trauma Registry.

- (r) These Rules. Rules 420-2-2-.01 through 420-2-2-.14, Chapter 420-2-2, Alabama Statewide Trauma System, *Ala. Admin. Code*.
- (s) Shall. This indicates mandatory requirements.
- (t) Alabama TCC Operations Director. Trauma Communication Center Director.
- (u) Alabama TCC. Alabama Trauma Communication Center.
- (v) Pre-hospital Trauma Patient. A pre-hospital patient who meets trauma system entry criteria (see appendix E) and is entered into the trauma system by calling the Alabama Trauma Communications Center and obtaining a unique identification number.
- (w) Hospital Trauma Patient. A hospital patient who meets trauma system entry criteria (see appendix F) and is entered into the trauma system by calling the Alabama Trauma Communications Center and obtaining a unique identification number.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D, et seq.*

**History:**

#### **420-2-2-.02 Trauma Center Standards: Verification**

Upon the receipt of advice and approval of the council, the board had adopted rules for verification and certification of trauma center status as set out in Appendix A.

**Author:** John Campbell, M.D.

**Statutory Authority:** Alabama Legislature, Act 299, Regular Session, 2007 (*Code of Alabama 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*)

**History:** Filed March 20, 2008; Effective April 24, 2008

#### **420-2-2-.03 Trauma Center Designation.**

##### **(1) Types of Designation.**

- (a) Regular Designation. A regular designation may be issued by the Board after it has determined that an applicant hospital has met all requirements to be designated as a trauma center at the level applied for and is otherwise in substantial compliance with these rules.
- (b) Provisional Designation. At its discretion, the Board may issue a provisional designation to an applicant hospital that has met all requirements to be designated as a trauma center at the level applied for, with exception to minor deviations from those requirements that do not impact patient care or the operation of a trauma region.

1. The provisional designation may be used for an initial designation or for an interim change in designation status to a lower level due to a trauma center's temporary loss of a component necessary to maintain a higher designation level.
2. A trauma center must submit a written corrective plan and interim operation plan for the provisional designation period including a timeline for corrective action to the Office of EMS and Trauma within 30 days of receiving a provisional designation.
3. A provisional designation shall not extend beyond 15 months.
4. A trauma center may submit a written request to the Office of EMS and Trauma that a provisional designation be removed once all components of its corrective plan have been achieved. Following its receipt of such a request, the Department will conduct a focused survey on the trauma center. A regular designation shall be granted in the event it is confirmed that all components of the corrective plan have been achieved.

(2) **Levels of Designation.** There shall be three levels of trauma center designation. The criteria of each level is set out in Appendix A.

(3) **Application Provision.** In order to become a trauma center, a hospital must submit an application (attached to these rules as Appendix B) and follow the application process provided in paragraph (4) below.

(4) **The Application Process.** To become designated as a trauma center, an applicant hospital and its medical staff shall complete the Department's "Application for Trauma Center Designation". An applicant hospital shall submit the completed application via mail or hand delivery to the address listed on the application. Within 30 days of receipt of the application, the Department shall provide written notification to the applicant hospital of the following:

- (a) That the application has been received by the Department;
- (b) Whether the Department accepts or rejects the application for incomplete information;
- (c) If accepted, the date scheduled for hospital inspection;
- (d) If rejected, the reason for rejection and a deadline for submission of a corrected "Application for Trauma Center Designation" to the Department;
- (e) Upon receipt of a completed application by the Department, an application packet

containing a pre-inspection questionnaire will be provided to the applicant hospital. The pre-inspection questionnaire must be returned to the Department one month prior to the scheduled inspection.

(f) The trauma center post-inspection process will proceed as listed below:

1. The inspection report will be completed two weeks after completion of the inspection.
2. A State and Regional review of the inspection report and a recommendation for or against designation will be made thirty days after completion of the inspection.
3. A final decision will be made known to the applicant hospital within x weeks of the completion of the inspection.
4. Focus visits may be conducted by the Department as needed.

**(5) The Inspection Process.** Each applicant hospital will receive an onsite inspection to ensure the hospital meets the minimum standards for the desired trauma center designation level as required by these rules. The Department's Office of EMS and Trauma staff will coordinate the hospital inspection process to include the inspection team and a scheduled time for the inspection. The hospital will receive written notification of the onsite inspection results from the Office of EMS and Trauma.

**(6) Designation Certificates.**

- (a) A designation certificate will be issued after an applicant hospital has successfully completed the application and inspection process. The designation certificate issued by the Office of EMS and Trauma shall set forth the name and location of the trauma center, and the type and level of designation. The form of the designation certificate is attached to these rules as Appendix C.
- (b) **Separate Designations.** A separate designation certificate shall be required for each hospital when more than one hospital is operated under the same management.

**(7) Designation for Contract.**

- (a) A designation contract will be completed after the hospital has successfully completed the application and inspection process. The designation contract shall be issued by the Office EMS and Trauma. It shall set forth the name and location of the trauma center and the type and level of designation.
- (b) **Separate Designation Contracts.** A separate designation contract shall be required for each hospital when more than one hospital is operated under the same management.
- (c) The form of the designation contract is attached to these rules as Appendix D.

**(8) Basis for Denial of a Designation.**

The Department shall deny a hospital application for trauma center designation if the application remains incomplete after an opportunity for correction has been made, or if the applicant hospital has failed to meet the trauma center designation criteria as determined during the inspection.

**(9) Suspension, Modification, and Revocation of a Designation.**

- (a) A trauma center's designation may be suspended, modified, or revoked by the Board for an inability or refusal to comply with these rules.
- (b) The Board's denial, suspension, modification or revocation of a trauma center designation shall be governed by the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, §41-22-1, et seq., *Ala. Admin. Code*.
- (c) Hearings. Contested case hearings shall be provided in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, §41-22-1, et seq., and the Board's Contested Case Hearing Rules, Chapter 420-1-3, *Ala Admin. Code*.
- (d) Informal settlement conferences may be conducted as provided by the Board's Contested Case Hearing Rules, Chapter 420-1-3, *Ala. Admin. Code*.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-5*

**History:**

**420-2-2-.04 Statewide Trauma Advisory Council.** There is established a Statewide Trauma Advisory Council. The Council assists in the development of these rules and serves as a consultant to the Board on matters related to the Statewide Trauma System.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-5*

**History:**

**420-2-2-.05 Trauma Care Regions.** Trauma Care Regions will be the same as the EMS Regions as approved by the State Board of Health.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D.

**Statutory Authority:** Alabama Legislature, Act 299, Regular Session, 2007(*Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*)

**History:** Filed May 21, 2008; Effective June 25, 2008

**420-2-2-.06 Regional Trauma Advisory Councils.**

- (1) Creation. Regional councils are established to advise, consult with, and accommodate specific regional needs. Each regional council shall provide data required by the Department or the Council to assess the effectiveness of the

statewide trauma system

- (2) **Membership.** Each regional council shall have a minimum of 10 members. The membership of the regional councils shall be appointed in the same manner as the Council is appointed and shall be composed of representatives of the same groups. The chair of each regional council shall be elected by its members to serve for four year term. The members shall represent the demographic composition of the region served, as far as practicable. Regional trauma advisory council members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as the same rate as state employees.
  
- (3) **Responsibilities.** The regional trauma council is responsible for direct oversight and management of its specific regional trauma system. The regional council shall review the entire regional trauma program activities for appropriateness, quality, and quantity to include pre-hospital and hospital care. The regional trauma council shall decide the appropriate secondary patient care triage criteria for their specific region to ensure patients are routed to the closest and most appropriate hospital according to their injuries.

In addition, the regional council shall fulfill the responsibilities as listed below:

1. Maintain standards;
  2. Collect data;
  3. Evaluate data-determine audit filters;
  4. Re-evaluate to determine effectiveness of corrective action;
  5. Participate on Regional Trauma QI Committee;
  6. Devise plan of corrective action for QI issues;
- 
- (4) **Committees.**
    1. **QA/QI Committees.** The regional trauma advisory councils shall document the effectiveness of hospital and emergency medical service QA/QI evaluations through routine reports of these QA/QI activities provided by each trauma system entity in their specific region. The regional trauma council will routinely perform focused review of specific QA/QI items of pre-hospital and hospital trauma care activities as determined appropriate by the regional trauma council. Recommendations for action will be developed by the committee based on analysis of data/information evaluated during committee function. The regional trauma council will submit quarterly compliance reports to the Office of EMS and Trauma for review to ensure the system process is followed.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*

**History:**



**420-2-2-.07 Patient Entry Criteria for hospitals.** Patients shall be entered into the Alabama Trauma System according to the criteria set out in Appendix F.

## Appendix F

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D. and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*

**History:**

**420-2-2-.08 Patient Entry Criteria for pre hospital providers.** Refer to EMS Alabama Patient Care Protocols 8.5

## Appendix H

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*

**History:**

### **420-2-2-.09 Statewide Trauma Registry**

- (1) **Creation.** There is established a Statewide Trauma Registry to collect data on the incidence, severity, and causes of trauma, including traumatic brain injury. The registry shall be used to improve the availability and delivery of pre-hospital or out-of-hospital care and hospital trauma care services.
- (2) **Data Elements.** Each designated trauma center shall furnish the following data to the registry. *See Appendix G for data elements.*
  - (a) Injury Case Criteria for State Trauma Registry.
    1. ICD-9 diagnosis code 800.00 – 959.9 and
    2. Assigned an ATCC number
    3. Admitted to hospital for 24 hours or greater or
    4. Transferred from one hospital to another hospital or
    5. Death resulting from the traumatic injury (independent of hospital admission or hospital transfer status)
  - (b) Excludes the following isolated injuries:
    1. 910 – 924.9 (superficial injuries-including blisters, contusions, abrasions, and insect bites)
    2. 930 – 939.9 (foreign bodies)
- (3) **Reporting.** All cases of traumatic injuries meeting the trauma admission criteria, diagnosed, assigned an ATCC number or treated and admitted to a level I, II, or III trauma facility shall report to the Alabama Trauma Registry within 90 days of ED visit or facility admission or diagnosis as prescribed by these rules. Reports are to be submitted on a monthly basis.
- (4) **Confidentiality.** All registry data shall be held confidential pursuant to state and federal laws, rules, and policies.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D. and Choona Lang  
**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*  
**History:**

**420-2-2-.10 Centralized Dispatch and Communications System.** Communications are critical to the function to the Trauma System.

- (1) The Alabama TCC will be staffed 24-hours-a-day by personnel with specific in-depth knowledge of the Trauma System design, function, and protocols.
- (2) It will be primary responsibility of the Alabama TCC to coordinate the Trauma System activities by maintaining, providing information and recommendations whenever needed to the field staff and hospital personnel in providing care to patients meeting the trauma system entry criteria. Oversight of day-to-day operations of the Alabama TCC will be responsibility of the Alabama TCC Operations Director.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang  
**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*  
**History:**

**420-2-2-.11 Air Ambulance Activation Requirements. Refer to Guidelines for Early Activation of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services 7.9**

**Appendix I**

**Guidelines for Helicopter Transport of Trauma System Patients 7.10**

**Appendix J**

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang  
**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*  
**History:**

**420-2-2-.12 Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement.** Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) activities are a vital component of the Trauma System. They are used to document and foster continuous improvement in performances and the quality of patient care. In addition, they will assist the Department in defining standards, evaluating methodologies, and utilizing the evaluation results from continued system improvement. The department shall develop guidelines for the state and regional level trauma staff in regarding QA/QI activities.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang  
**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975, §22-11D-1, et seq.*  
**History:**

**420-2-2-.13 Confidentiality**

- (1) State and Regional Trauma QA/QI members shall be provided access to all information, reports, statements, or memoranda reviewed by or furnished to the State and Regional Trauma QA/QI workgroups members; and any discussion, findings, conclusions or recommendations resulting from the review of the records by the State and Regional Trauma QA/QI workgroups are declared to be privileged and confidential. All information, reports, statements, or memoranda reviewed by or furnished to the State and Regional Trauma QA/QI workgroups shall be used only in the exercise of proper functions and duties of the State and Regional Trauma QA/QI workgroups.
- (2) All information furnished to the State and Regional QA/QI workgroups shall include pertinent safety and health information associated with the case summary. All identifying patient information will be removed before preparing case summary.
- (3) All information and records acquired or developed by the State and Regional Trauma QA/QI workgroups shall be secured and have restricted access and shall be destroyed when no longer of use.
- (4) Statistical information and data may be released by the State and Regional Trauma QA/QI as long as no identifying patient information is provided.

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975*, §22-11D-1, et seq.

**History:**

**420-2-2-.14 Statewide Trauma System Fund.**

**Pending**

**Authors:** John Campbell, M.D., and Choona Lang

**Statutory Authority:** *Code of Alabama, 1975*, §22-11D-1, et seq.

**History:**

# Alabama Trauma Center Designation

## Trauma Facilities Criteria: APPENDIX A Trauma Rules

The following table shows levels of categorization and their **essential (E)** or **desirable (D)** criteria necessary for designation as a Trauma Facility by the Alabama Department of Public Health

	Level I	Level II	Level III
<b>INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION</b>			
Trauma Program	E	E	E
Trauma Service	E	E	-
Trauma Team	E	E	E
Trauma Program Medical Director	E	E	D
Trauma Multidisciplinary Committee	E	E	D
Trauma Coordinator/ TPM	E	E	E
<b>HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS/ DIVISIONS/ SECTIONS</b>			
Surgery	E	E	E
Neurological Surgery	E	-	-
Neurological trauma liaison	E	-	-
Orthopedic Surgery	E	E	-
Orthopedic trauma liaison	E	E	-
Emergency medicine	E	E	E
Anesthesia	E	E	E
<b>CLINICAL CAPABILITIES</b>			
Published on-call schedule	E	E	E
General Surgery (attending surgeon promptly available <sup>1</sup> to maintain green status)	E	E	E
Published back-up schedule or written back-up method <sup>2</sup>	E	D	D
Dedicated to single hospital when on-call	E	D	D
Anesthesia (promptly available <sup>3</sup> to maintain green status)	E	E	E
Emergency Medicine (Immediately available in-house 24 hours/day)	E	E	E
<b>On-call and promptly available to maintain green status:</b>			
Cardiac surgery	E	-	-
Hand surgery (does not include micro vascular/reimplantation)	E	D	-
Micro vascular/replant surgery	D	-	-
Neurologic Surgery	E	D	-
Dedicated to one hospital or back-up call	E	D	-
Obstetrics/gynecologic surgery <sup>4</sup>	E	D	-

	Level I	Level II	Level III
Ophthalmic surgery	E	D	-
Oral/maxillofacial surgery	E	D	-
Orthopedic	E	E	D
Dedicated to one hospital or back-up call	E	D	-
Plastic surgery	E	D	D
Critical care medicine	E	D	-
Radiology	E	E	E
Thoracic surgery	E	D	-
<b>CLINICAL QUALIFICATIONS</b>			
<b>General/ trauma surgeon</b>			
Current board certification or eligible	E	E	-
Average of 6 hours of trauma related CME/year <sup>5</sup>	E	E	D
ATLS completion	E	E	E
Peer review committee attendance > 50%	E	E	-
Multidisciplinary committee attendance	E	E	-
<b>Emergency Medicine</b>			
Board certification <sup>6</sup> or eligible	E	D	D
ATLS completion <sup>7</sup>	E	E	E
Average of 6 hours of trauma related CME/year <sup>5</sup>	E	E	E
Peer review committee attendance > 50%	E	E	-
Multidisciplinary committee attendance	E	E	-
<b>Neurosurgery</b>			
Current board certification or eligible	E	D	-
Average of 6 hours of trauma related CME/year <sup>5</sup>	E	D	D
ATLS completion	D	D	D
Peer review committee attendance > 50%	E	E	-
Multidisciplinary committee attendance	E	E	-
<b>Orthopedic surgery</b>			
Board certification or eligible	E	D	-
Average of 6 hours of trauma related CME/year <sup>5</sup>	E	D	D
ATLS Completion	D	D	D
Peer review committee attendance > 50%	E	E	D
Multidisciplinary committee attendance	E	E	-
<b>FACILITIES/ RESOURCES/ CAPABILITIES</b>			
<b>Volume Performance</b>			

	Level I	Level II	Level III
Trauma admissions 750/ year	E	-	-
Presence of surgeon at resuscitation	E	E	D
Presence of surgeon at operative procedures	E	E	E
<b>Emergency Department (ED)</b>			
Personnel - designated physician director	E	E	E
<b>Equipment for resuscitation for patients of all ages</b>			
Airway control and ventilation equipment	E	E	E
Pulse oximetry	E	E	E
Suction devices	E	E	E
Electrocardiograph-oscilloscope-defibrillator	E	E	E
Internal paddles	E	E	-
CVP monitoring equipment	E	E	D
Standard IV fluids and administration sets	E	E	E
Large-bore intravenous catheters	E	E	E
<b>Sterile surgical sets for:</b>			
Airway control/ cricothyrotomy	E	E	E
Thoracostomy	E	E	E
Venous cutdown	E	E	E
Central line insertion	E	E	-
Thoracotomy	E	E	-
Peritoneal lavage	E	E	E
Arterial pressure monitors	E	D	D
Ultrasound	E	E	D
Drugs necessary for emergency care	E	E	E
X-ray available to maintain green status	E	E	D
Cervical traction devices	E	E	D
Length based Pediatric Resuscitation tape	E	E	E
Rapid infuser system	E	E	D
Qualitative end-tidal CO <sub>2</sub> determination	E	E	E
Communications with EMS vehicles	E	E	E
<b>OPERATING ROOM</b>			
Immediately available to maintain green status <sup>8</sup>	E	D	D
<b>Operating Room Personnel</b>			
In house to maintain green status <sup>8</sup>	E	-	-
Available to maintain green status	-	E	E
<b>Age Specific Equipment</b>			

	Level I	Level II	Level III
Cardiopulmonary bypass	E	-	-
Operating microscope	D	D	-
<b>Thermal Control Equipment</b>			
For patient	E	E	E
For fluids and blood	E	E	E
X-ray capability, including c-arm image intensifier	E	E	E
Endoscopes, bronchoscopes	E	E	D
Craniotomy instruments	E	D	-
Equipment for long bone and pelvic fixation	E	E	D
Rapid infuser system	E	E	D
<b>Post Anesthetic Recovery Room (SICU is acceptable)</b>			
Registered nurses available to maintain green status	E	E	-
Equipment for monitoring and resuscitation	E	E	E
Intracranial pressure monitoring equipment	E	D	-
Pulse oximetry	E	E	E
Thermal control	E	E	E
<b>Intensive or Critical Care Unit for Injured Patients</b>			
Registered nurses with trauma education	E	E	-
Designated surgical director or surgical co-director	E	D	D
Surgical ICU service physician in-house 24 hours/day (Emergency physician will satisfy this requirement)	E	D	-
Equipment for monitoring and resuscitation	E	E	-
Intracranial monitoring equipment	E	-	-
Pulmonary artery monitoring equipment	E	E	-
<b>Respiratory Therapy Services</b>			
Available in-house to maintain green status	E	E	D
On-call to maintain green status	-	-	D
<b>Radiological services</b>			
In-house radiology technologist to maintain green status	E	E	D
Angiography	E	D	-
Sonography	E	E	D
Computer Tomography (CT) prom	E	E	D
In house CT technician	E	-	-
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Technician not required in house)	E	D	-
<b>Clinical laboratory services</b> (Available to maintain green status)	E	E	E
Standard analyses of blood, urine, and other body fluids, including microsampling when appropriate	E	E	E

	Level I	Level II	Level III
Blood typing and cross-matching	E	E	E
Coagulation studies	E	E	E
Comprehensive blood bank or access to a community central blood bank and adequate storage facilities	E	E	E
Blood gasses and pH determinations	E	E	E
Microbiology	E	E	E
<b>Acute Hemodialysis</b>			
In-house (staff not required in-house for green status)	E	-	-
<b>Burn Care – Organized</b>			
In house	D	-	-
<b>Acute Spinal Cord Management</b>			
In-house	E	D	-
<b>REHABILITATION SERVICES</b>			
Physical therapy	E	E	D
Occupational therapy	E	D	D
Speech therapy	E	D	-
Social Service	E	E	D
<b>PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT</b>			
Performance improvement programs	E	E	E
<b>Trauma registry</b>			
Participate in state registry	E	E	E
Audit of all trauma deaths	E	E	E
Morbidity and mortality review	E	E	E
Trauma conference-multidisciplinary	E	E	D
Medical nursing audit	E	E	E
Review of pre-hospital trauma care <sup>9</sup>	E	E	E
Review of times and reasons for trauma status being red	E	E	E
Review of times and reasons for transfer of injured patients	E	E	E
Performance improvement personnel dedicated to care of injured patients	E	D	D
<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION/OUTREACH</b>			
General Surgery residency program	D	-	-
ATLS provide/ participate	E	D	D
<b>Programs provided by hospital for:</b>			
Staff/community physicians (CME)	E	E	D
Nurses	E	E	D
Allied health personnel	E	E	-



	Level I	Level II	Level III
Feedback provided to pre-hospital personnel <sup>10</sup>	E	E	E
<b>PREVENTION</b>			
Collaboration with other institutions for injury control and prevention	E	D	D
Designated prevention coordinator-spokesman for injury control	E	D	-
Outreach activities	E	D	D
Information resources for public	E	D	-
Collaboration with existing national, regional and state programs	E	E	E
Coordination and/or participation in community prevention activities	E	E	E
<b>RESEARCH</b>			
Trauma registry performance improvement activities	E	E	E
Research committee	D	-	-
Identifiable IRB process	D	-	-
Extramural educational presentations	D	D	-
Number of scientific publications	D	-	-

<sup>1</sup> In both Level I and Level II facilities 24-hour in-house availability is the most direct method for the attending surgeon to provide care. In hospitals with residency programs, a team of physicians and surgeons that can include the Emergency Department Physicians, Surgical Residents, or Trauma Residents may start evaluation and treatment allowing the attending surgeon to take call outside the hospital if he/she can arrive. For hospitals without residency programs, the attending surgeon may take call from outside the hospital but should be promptly available. Compliance with these requirements must be monitored by the hospital's quality improvement program.

<sup>2</sup> If there is no published back-up call schedule there must be a written procedure of how to identify or locate another surgeon when needed and this should be monitored by the quality improvement plan.

<sup>3</sup> Timeliness of anesthesia response should be monitored by the hospital's quality improvement program.

<sup>4</sup> AL licensed specialty pediatric facilities, which are PPS exempt under Title 42 USC Section 1395ww(d)(1)(B)(iii) and receive funding under Title 42 USC 256e shall not be required to have an obstetric/gynecologic surgery service but should have a transfer agreement for OB-GYN surgery services.

<sup>5</sup> An average of 18 hours of trauma CME every three years is acceptable.

<sup>6</sup> Physicians may be board certified in Emergency Medicine or Pediatric Emergency Medicine by an ABMS- or AOA-recognized board, or may be board certified in a primary care specialty if they have extensive experience in management of trauma patients.

<sup>7</sup>Physicians not board certified in Emergency Medicine or Pediatric Emergency Medicine by an ABMS- or AOA-recognized board must maintain their ATLS certification. There will be a three year grace period for emergency department staff to become compliant with this requirement

<sup>8</sup>An operating room must be adequately staffed and immediately available in a Level I trauma center to remain available (green) to the trauma system. This is met by having a complete operating room team in the hospital at all times, so if an injured patient requires operative care, the patient can receive it in the most expeditious manner. These criteria cannot be met by individuals who are also dedicated to other functions within the institution. Their primary function must be the operating room.

An operating room must be adequately staffed and available when needed in timely fashion in a Level II trauma center to remain available (green) to the trauma system. The need to have an in-house OR team will depend on a number of things, including patient population served, ability to share responsibility for OR coverage with other hospital staff, prehospital communication, and the size of the community served by the institution. If an out-of-house OR team is used, then this aspect of care must be monitored by the performance improvement program.

<sup>9</sup>All levels of Trauma Centers should monitor prehospital trauma care. This includes the quality of patient care provided, patients brought by EMS and not entered into the trauma system but had to be entered into the trauma system by the hospital (under triage), and patients entered into the trauma system by EMS that did not meet criteria (over triage).

<sup>10</sup>Hospital must complete and return to the RTAC the initial patient findings, treatment provided and outcome at the end of the first 24 hours. This should be noted on the ATCC patient record.

**ALABAMA TRAUMA CENTER CLASSIFICATION / DESIGNATION APPLICATION**

*(Instructions on page 2)*

**Section A. LEVEL OF CLASSIFICATION / DESIGNATION**

**Name of Hospital to appear on Certificate:**

Classification / Designation Level (Check)	NONE	Level I		Level II	Level III
<b>Current level:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Level being applied for:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section B. FACILITY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

Facility Name:

Mailing Address (include street address):

Telephone Number

City State Zip County

**Trauma Medical Director (Name, Title)**

E-mail Telephone ( ) Fax ( )

**Trauma Program Coordinator/ Manager (Name, Title)**

E-mail Telephone ( ) Fax ( )

**Physician Director of Emergency Medicine (Name, Title)**

E-mail Telephone ( ) Fax ( )

**Chief of Surgery (Name, Title)**

E-mail Telephone ( ) Fax ( )

**Contact Person (Name, Title)**

E-mail Telephone ( ) Fax ( )

**Section C. REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COUNCIL (RTAC) NAME**

- ( ) North
- ( ) East
- ( ) BREMSS
- ( ) West
- ( ) Southeast
- ( ) Gulf

**Section D. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE(S)**

Signature of CEO	PRINT NAME	Date Signed
Signature of Chief of Staff	PRINT NAME	Date Signed
Signature of Chief of Surgery or Signature of Trauma Surgical Staff	PRINT NAME	Date Signed
In accordance with the requirements of the Trauma System Administrative Rules, the hospital listed above agrees to abide by the State Trauma System Hospital Classification / Designation Criteria.		

## **Alabama Trauma Center Facility Classification / Designation Application**

(Instructions for completing this application)

In accordance with Alabama Trauma System Act § 22-11D-1, et seq. (*Code of Alabama 1975*) all hospitals in Alabama that wish to participate in the trauma system must determine their classification / designation. Even though all hospitals are encouraged to apply for state classification / designation as a trauma center, participation remains voluntary.

Complete all sections of the application that apply, do not leave any blank spaces. Blank spaces on the application may be interpreted as an incomplete application. The application may be completed on a personal computer or printed and completed by hand. Print clearly or type.

This is a Microsoft Word document and requires that the user also have Microsoft Word in order to complete it online. If completing the application online follow the steps below:

- Use the 'Tab' key to move through the form
- Type responses in shaded fields
- When you have completed this document, save your work ('File Save') on your computer

**Only the completed, printed, signed, application will be accepted and should be mailed to the address listed at the bottom of this page. DO NOT FAX OR E-MAIL**

### **Section A. LEVEL OF CLASSIFICATION / DESIGNATION**

Indicate whether the hospital is applying for classification / designation as a Level I, II, or III.

### **Section B. FACILITY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

Type the identifying information of the hospital as it should appear on the classification / designation certificate.

Include the area code with the telephone number.

Include the city and zip code.

Include the trauma program manager or the name of person who fulfills those duties.

Provide the name and telephone number of the person to contact for questions about the application and the assessment and classification / designation criteria.

### **Section C. NAME OF REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COUNCIL (RTAC)**

**Select the RTAC with which the hospital has membership (RTACs include): North, BREMSS, East, West, Southeast, and Gulf Coast (the names may change)**

### **Section D. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SIGNATURE (S)**

Type in the name of the hospital in the shaded space provided. The **application must be signed and the dated as indicated before submitting.**

**NOTE:** Questions regarding the classification / designation process and the trauma system are anticipated. There are resources available to assist your facility. In addition to the State Trauma System Personnel Contact listed below, Alabama has six Regional Trauma Advisory Councils which meet on a regular basis. Attending the RTAC meetings is the best resource to remain current about the state trauma system. The State Trauma Advisory Council (STAC) meets on a regular basis. To find out more information on RTACs and STAC **please contact the State Trauma Administrator as listed below or go**

to the Alabama Department of Public Health Web page, Office of Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Web page at <http://www.adph.org/ats>.

Submit the completed Trauma application to: ADPH, Office of EMS and Trauma Attn: State Trauma System Administrator 201 Monroe Street, Suite 750 Montgomery, AL 36104	For questions contact: Choona Lang RN, BSN, MHA State Trauma System Administrator Phone: 334-206-5383 E-mail:
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Revised 01/21/2010

# Alabama Trauma Center

Alabama Department of Public Health acknowledges

Vaughn Regional Medical Center

Location  
Selma, AL

for successfully completing the required Trauma Center Survey for  
Alabama Trauma Center as said designation level  
Level III

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of June 2008

Made with a True  
Copy of SmartDraw

Buy SmartDraw purchased copies print this  
document without a watermark

Appendix C Certificate (Sample)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND**

**Hospital Name**

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This Memorandum of Understanding entered into by and between the State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, hereinafter, “the Alabama Department of Public Health” and \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as “the Trauma Hospital” is effective enter date, and terminates enter date.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health has been given the responsibility to establish a statewide trauma system by the Alabama Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Trauma Hospital operates \_\_\_\_\_, the only Level \_\_\_\_ Trauma Center in the region located at \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health seeks to provide a coordinated delivery of appropriate trauma care and trauma patient routing for trauma patients located closer to the \_\_\_\_\_ than any appropriate trauma hospital in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Public Health recognizes that trauma patients may be provided care by \_\_\_\_\_ if their trauma incidents occur in an appropriate area near \_\_\_\_\_; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of said mutual covenants, the Trauma Hospital and the Alabama Department of Public Health hereby agree and covenant one with the other as follows:

1. The Alabama Department of Public Health agrees to supply the hardware, software, and provide upgrades or repairs for the Trauma Hospital, and in return, the Trauma Hospital agrees to provide information to the Alabama Trauma System concerning its real time capability and capacity to treat trauma patients for the timely routing of these trauma patients.
2. The Trauma Hospital will provide a location in its emergency department at \_\_\_\_\_ for the computer and will keep status of resources available through use of the computer.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be canceled at any time by either party by giving a thirty day written notice to the other party.
4. The Alabama Department of Public Health represents and warrants that it has never been sanctioned by or excluded from participation in the Medicare, Medicaid, or any other state or federal healthcare program for program-related offenses and has never been convicted of a criminal offense related to health care. The Alabama Department

of Public Health shall notify the Trauma Hospital immediately if any such action is proposed or taken against it, or if it becomes the subject of an investigation that could lead to such action, at which time the Trauma Hospital may immediately terminate this Memorandum of Understanding.

5. The Alabama Department of Public Health shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Trauma Hospital for any and all claims, liabilities, damages, or costs arising out of the use of the hardware and software provided by the Department as well as the upgrades and repairs provided by the Department.
6. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be governed by the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, however, the Alabama Department of Public Health does not waive the sovereign immunity granted to it by the Alabama Constitution of 1901.

**Contractor:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner or Representative Name

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alabama Department of Public Health**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Blair, Director  
Office of EMS and Trauma

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**  
Alabama Department of Public Health

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donald E. Williamson, M.D.  
State Health Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Appendix F

### ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM PATIENT ENTRY CRITERIA FOR HOSPITALS

The following are criteria for hospital emergency department medical personnel to enter into the Alabama Trauma System a patient who has been involved in a trauma or burn incident. Any hospital in Alabama may utilize this protocol and is encouraged to use the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) to expedite appropriate trauma patient transfer.

**NOTE: THIS IS FOR PATIENTS PRESENTING TO ANY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, NOT FOR PATIENTS ALREADY ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL**

#### **Physiological criteria present on arrival or develop during evaluation and observation:**

1. A systolic BP < 90 mm/Hg in an adult or child 6 years or older < 80 mm/Hg in a child Less than 6 years old.
2. Respiratory distress - rate < 10 or >29 in adults, or <20 or >60 in a newborn < 20 or > 40 in a child three years or younger <12 or >29 in a child four years or older.
3. Head trauma with Glasgow Coma Scale score of 13 or less or head trauma with any neurologic changes in a child five or younger. The level of trauma center to which this patient would be transferred would depend on regional secondary triage criteria. Generally only GCS scores of 9 or less are triaged to a Level I Trauma Hospital.

#### **Anatomical Criteria (patient with normal physiologic signs):**

1. The patient has a flail chest.
2. The patient has two or more obvious proximal long bone fractures (humerus, femur).
3. The patient has a penetrating injury of the head, neck, torso, or groin, associated with an energy transfer.
4. The patient has in the same body area a combination of trauma and burns (partial and full thickness) of 15% or greater.
5. The patient has an amputation proximal to the wrist or ankle.
6. The patient has one or more limbs which are paralyzed.
7. The patient has a pelvic fracture demonstrated by x-ray or other imaging technique.
8. Significant internal injuries are found during hospital evaluation and the referring hospital does not have the surgical resources to manage them.

#### **Mechanism of Injury Criteria (patient with normal physiologic signs):**

**This should not be used as criteria for entering a patient into the trauma system except by hospitals that lack the resources and/or expertise to properly evaluate a patient for internal injuries.** Patients put into the system for this reason could adequately be evaluated by a Level II or Level III trauma hospital.

1. A patient with the same method of restraint and in the same seating area as a dead victim.
2. Ejection of the patient from an enclosed vehicle.
3. Motorcycle/bicycle/ATV crash with the patient being thrown at least ten feet from the motorcycle/bicycle.

4. Auto versus pedestrian with significant impact with the patient thrown, or run over by a vehicle.
5. An unbroken fall of twenty feet or more onto a hard surface. **Unbroken fall of 10 feet or 3 times the height of the child onto a hard surface.**

### **Burn Criteria:**

Indications for entering the patient into the trauma system and transferring to a burn center include the following:

1. Partial thickness burn of greater than 10% of the total body surface area.
2. Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints.
3. Third-degree burns in any age group.
4. Electrical burns, including lightning injury.
5. Chemical burns.
6. Inhalation injury.
7. Burn injuries in patients with preexisting medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality.
8. Any patient with burns and concomitant trauma (such as fractures) in which the burn injury poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality. In such cases, if the trauma poses the greater immediate risk, the patient's condition may be stabilized initially in a trauma center before transfer to a burn center.
9. **Burned children in hospitals without qualified personnel or equipment for the care of children.**
10. Burn injury in patients who will require special social, emotional, or rehabilitative intervention.

### NOTES:

1. Patients entered into the system for Physiologic criteria may be transferred by calling the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) 1-800-359-0123. **Note: hospitals unable to care for these patients should transfer them immediately.**
2. Patients entered into the trauma system for Burn criteria may be transferred by calling the ATCC for availability of appropriate bed (floor vs. ICU) at ready burn center. When availability of a bed is confirmed, the ATCC will connect the transferring physician with the receiving surgeon (if immediately available) at the ready burn center to discuss any stabilization that should be done prior to transfer.
3. Hospitals wishing to enter a patient into the trauma system for Anatomic criteria should call the ATCC who can identify the appropriate ready hospital and can facilitate the transferring physician consulting with a receiving physician to discuss the transfer.

## Appendix G

### Injury case criteria for State Trauma Registry

1. ICD-9 diagnosis code **800 - 959.9** (*per National Trauma Data Standard Version 1.2.2, revised April 2008*)

**And**

2. Hospital admission for 24 hours or greater **or**
3. Transferred from one hospital to another hospital **or**
4. Death resulting from the traumatic injury (independent of hospital admission or hospital transfer)
5. Assigned an **ATCC number \*\***

### Exclusions:

1. 910 – 924.9 (**superficial injuries, including blisters, contusions, abrasions and insect bites**)
2. 930 – 939.9 (**foreign bodies**)

### Reporting Schedule:

1. Within **90 days** of ED visit, admission, or diagnosis as above
2. Reports are to be **submitted** to ATR on a **monthly** basis

**\*\*** Anyone assigned an ATCC number will be reported to Trauma Registry

**\*\*\*** Approved per STAC on 10/06/08

**PURPOSE:**

The following are criteria for entering a patient who has been involved in a trauma incident into the Alabama Trauma System.

**Physiological criteria:**

4. A systolic BP < 90 mm/Hg in an adult **or < 80 mm/Hg in a child five or younger.**
5. Respiratory distress - rate < 10 or >29 in adults, **or < 20 or > 40 in a child one year or younger.**
6. Head trauma with Glasgow Coma Scale score of 13 or less.

**Anatomical Criteria:**

9. The patient has a flail chest.
10. The patient has two or more obvious proximal long bone fractures (humerus, femur).
11. The patient has a penetrating injury of the head, neck, torso, or groin, associated with an energy transfer.
12. The patient has in the same body area a combination of trauma and burns (partial and full thickness) of fifteen percent or greater.
13. The patient has an amputation proximal to the wrist or ankle.
14. The patient has one or more limbs which are paralyzed.
15. The patient has a pelvic fracture, as evidenced by a positive “pelvic movement” exam.

**Mechanism of the patient injury:**

6. A patient with the same method of restraint and in the same seating area as a dead victim.
7. Ejection of the patient from an enclosed vehicle.
8. Motorcycle/bicycle/ATV crash with the patient being thrown at least ten feet from the motorcycle/bicycle.
9. Auto versus pedestrian with significant impact with the patient thrown, or run over by a vehicle.
10. An unbroken fall of twenty feet or more onto a hard surface.

**EMT Discretion:**

1. If, the EMT is convinced the patient could have a severe injury which is not yet obvious, the patient should be entered into the trauma system.
2. The EMTs suspicion of severity of trauma/injury may be raised by the following factors:
  - a. Age > 55
  - b. **Age < five**
  - c. Environment (hot/cold)
  - d. Patient’s previous medical history
    - i. Insulin dependent diabetes
    - ii. Cardiac condition
    - iii. Immunodeficiency disorder
    - iv. Bleeding disorder

- i. COPD/Emphysema
- e. Pregnancy
- f. Extrication time > 20 minutes with heavy tools utilized
- g. Motorcycle crash
- h. Head trauma with history of more than momentary loss of consciousness.

**ENTERING A PATIENT INTO THE TRAUMA SYSTEM:**

**1. Regions that are not yet operating under the Alabama Trauma System**

Patients should be transported to a hospital with a trauma response program if such is available in the region, per the region's Medical Control and Accountability Plan.

**2. Regions that are currently operating under the Alabama Trauma System should call the Trauma Communications Center (TCC) to determine patient destination:**

TCC contact numbers:

Toll-Free Emergency: 1-800-359-0123, or  
Southern LINC EMS Fleet 55: Talkgroup 10/Private 55\*380, or  
Nextel: 154\*132431\*4

After assessing a trauma situation and making the determination the patient should be entered into the Trauma System, the EMT licensed at the highest level should contact the Trauma Communications Center (TCC) at the earliest time which is practical, and provide the following:

1. Identify yourself and your agency by name, unit number and county. If on-line medical direction is necessary, the receiving trauma center becomes medical direction. TCC will help coordinate on-line medical direction with a physician immediately.
2. Give your geographic location.
3. Give age and sex of patient (patient name is not necessary).
4. Assign patient number if more than one patient.
5. Give criteria for entry into Trauma System.
6. Give vital signs: Blood Pressure, Pulse rate, Respiratory rate, GCS
7. TCC Communicator will offer available trauma centers based on information given above.
8. Give unit number of transporting unit, mode of transport, and time of transport from the scene.

9. You will be given a unique identification number that must be entered into the chart when you generate your e-PCR. The Office of EMS and Trauma will use this to identify the charts for quality improvement studies.

Notify the TCC of any change in the patient's condition. The receiving trauma center (or TCC, who can relay to trauma center) should be updated by the transporting unit 5-10 minutes out. This update need only consist of any patient changes and patient's current condition. A repeat of information used to enter the patient into the Trauma System is not necessary since this information will be relayed by the TCC to the receiving trauma center. After the patient is delivered to the trauma center, the transporting provider should call the TCC with the Patient Care Report times.

NOTE: If you are considering helicopter transport of the trauma patient, you should follow Protocol 7.10: Guidelines for Helicopter Transport of Trauma Patients

<b>GUIDELINES FOR EARLY ACTIVATION OF HELICOPTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	<b>7.9</b>
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**PURPOSE:** Helicopter EMS services (HEMS) offer speed of transport and ALS personnel experienced in managing critical patients. These guidelines are to assist EMS responders in determining when early activation of HEMS would likely be in the critical patient's best interest. Early Activation means initiation of a helicopter response prior to arrival of the EMS responders to the scene. Early Activation may be based on pre-arrival information regarding the incident or a suspicion by EMS that specialty care may be needed. Early Activation is initiated at the request of the first responding EMS providers or in conjunction with Dispatch and the EMS service. It is recognized that pre-arrival information may be misleading and the activated HEMS may be cancelled. The HEMS service that can respond to the scene in the shortest time should be called. If a HEMS service cannot answer a call and a second service is requested, the requesting agency must notify the second service that the call has already been refused and why.

Situations in which Early Activation of HEMS may be needed includes, but are not limited to:

1. Report of severe collision involving one or more vehicles
2. Multiple victim incidents with severe illness or injuries
3. Report of person being ejected from a vehicle
4. Pedestrian vs. vehicle with reported injuries
5. MVC with reported death and other injured persons
6. Report of severe burns
7. An unbroken fall of twenty feet or more onto a hard surface
8. Penetrating injury to head, neck, torso, or groin
9. Report of injury with paralysis
10. Sickness with new onset focal weakness or paralysis (suspected stroke)
11. Severe chest pain thought to be of cardiac etiology
12. Near drowning
13. Report of amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
14. Report of serious injury in a patient whose location would be difficult to access by ground ambulance but is more accessible by helicopter
15. Severe shortness of breath or airway problems
16. There is no available ground ambulance to respond
17. Report of patient with symptoms of shock
18. Report of patient with history of trauma and altered mental status
19. Discretion of Medical Direction or responding EMS personnel

HEMS are most appropriately used when their use would **SIGNIFICANTLY** reduce the time required to get the patient to the appropriate hospital or when potentially lifesaving prehospital interventions may be needed that that cannot be provided by the responding EMS service. The Regional Aeromedical Plan must be followed when approved. Quality Improvement monitoring is important and is best done in partnership with the responding helicopter service.

**GUIDELINES FOR HELICOPTER TRANSPORT  
OF TRAUMA SYSTEM PATIENTS**

**7.10**

**Purpose**

Helicopter EMS services (HEMS) offer speed of transport and ALS personnel experienced in managing critical patients. The purpose of this Air Evacuation Protocol is to provide EMS personnel who are on scene, with guidelines for utilizing HEMS for transporting trauma system patients.

**Process**

Several factors must be considered before summoning HEMS for a trauma scene response. Stable patients who are accessible by ground vehicles and are within a reasonable distance from the designated trauma center are best transported by ground vehicles. Often, patients can be transported by ground ambulance and delivered to the appropriate trauma center before a helicopter can reach the scene. You must follow your Regional Aeromedical Plan when approved. If a question exists as to whether HEMS transport would be appropriate, Medical Direction should be consulted before summoning a helicopter for a scene response.

HEMS are best used to transport critical trauma patients such as those entered into the trauma system because of physiologic or anatomic criteria. Those patients entered into the trauma system because of mechanism of injury or EMT discretion criteria are often more appropriately transported by ground ambulance.

**The primary determinant should be to get the patient to the most appropriate facility in the shortest amount of time.**

Emergency Medical Services personnel should request HEMS when transportation by air will SIGNIFICANTLY reduce actual transport time to the receiving facility and/or the patient needs potentially lifesaving prehospital interventions that cannot be provided by the responding EMS service. The following are some criteria when HEMS transport should be considered.

1. Transport time to the designated trauma center by ground ambulance is significantly greater than the response time and transport to the designated Trauma Center by air.
2. Ambulance access to the scene or away from the scene is significantly impeded by road conditions and/or traffic.
3. Prolonged patient extrication when a Level I facility is needed. Understand that some extricated patients are not injured and/or have sustained minor injuries and may not need HEMS.
4. Multi-system blunt or penetrating trauma with unstable vital signs.
5. Severe burns that require transport to a burn center (See Protocol 4.7).
6. Patients with severe respiratory distress or airway problems.



**GUIDELINES FOR HELICOPTER TRANSPORT  
OF TRAUMA SYSTEM PATIENTS (Continued)****7.10**

7. Multiple patient incidents that exceed ground ambulance service resources.
8. No ambulance available to transport the patient and/or no ALS service (if needed) within 30 minutes.
9. Discretion of Medical Direction or the on-scene EMS personnel.

When use of HEMS is not specifically defined by the protocol, the on-scene EMS personnel can establish communication with Medical Direction for advice.

Once the decision is made to use HEMS for a trauma patient, the service that can respond to the scene in the shortest time should be called. Because helicopters must go through a preflight protocol before lift-off, the shortest response time should be obtained by calling the HEMS first and then calling the TCC to decide on the proper destination hospital. When a decision is made on a destination hospital, the helicopter service should be immediately notified so they may develop their flight plan. If Early Activation was utilized, the responding HEMS service should be notified of the patient destination as soon as possible. If a HEMS service is unable to answer a call and a second service is requested, the requesting agency must notify the second service that the call has already been refused and why.

An EMS service should not wait on the scene or unduly delay transport waiting for HEMS to arrive. If the patient is packaged and ready for transport, the EMS service should reassign the landing zone to a mutually agreeable site that is closer to the hospital, and should initiate transport. The helicopter may intercept an ambulance at an agreed upon alternate landing site.

**Cancellation**

When EMS personnel arrive on scene, they should assess the situation. If HEMS has already been called and it is the professional judgment of the **HIGHEST LEVEL LICENSED EMS PERSONNEL ON THE SCENE** that the helicopter will not provide a significant benefit, it should be cancelled as soon as possible. A HEMS request by a BLS agency may be cancelled by the responding ALS agency only after an appropriate patient assessment has been conducted. A HEMS request by an ALS agency may be cancelled only by the agency making the initial request. If HEMS cancels a flight, they must inform the requesting agency ASAP.

If HEMS arrives on scene and determines that the patient does not meet criteria for helicopter transport or that patient, weather, or aircraft issues preclude use of the helicopter for transport, they may request ground transport of that patient. The request for ground transport does not preclude the HEMS crew from boarding the ground ambulance and continuing to provide advanced care as would be provided in flight. In situations where the HEMS crew determines that the patient does not have a medical need for HEMS transport, the transfer of this patient

**GUIDELINES FOR HELICOPTER TRANSPORT  
OF TRAUMA SYSTEM PATIENTS (Continued)****7.10**

to a ground ambulance shall not constitute abandonment as defined by EMS regulations.

**Quality Assurance/Improvement**

As with all EMS responses in which HEMS is utilized, there should be QA/QI done in partnership with the responding helicopter service. Follow the Regional Aeromedical Plan when approved.

**THIS IS A GUIDELINE AND IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE. EMS PERSONNEL SHOULD USE GOOD CLINICAL JUDGEMENT AT ALL TIMES. IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS, OLMD SHOULD BE CONSULTED.**

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<sup>i</sup> 11/06/2008 c.f.

12/04/2008

**REVISED 02/18/2010 CLF**

**REVISED 07/09/2010 CLF**