



**Texas Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Management**

TRAUMA SYSTEMS POLICY # TS-03-B

Trauma Facility Designation Process for Children's Hospitals

June 2003

ISSUE

There is some confusion as to whether enacting legislation allows for the designation of pediatric trauma facilities. A Texas Department of Health (TDH) legal opinion dated April 29, 2003, states in part that there does not appear to be anything in current Texas state law or TDH regulations that prevents the department from designating a hospital that primarily serves pediatric patients as a "trauma facility", provided that the hospital can show that it has been verified by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as having met all essential criteria.

BACKGROUND

More children die in Texas from trauma than all other causes combined. The injured pediatric patient has special needs that optimally may be provided in the environment of a children's hospital with a demonstrated commitment to trauma care. (Because of the limited number and wide geographic distribution of children's hospitals, however, adult trauma facilities caring for injured children must be available to provide this resource as well.)

Texas has been designating trauma facilities since 1992. Although there is currently no process in place for the designation of a children's hospital, there is a children's hospital in Texas that was recently verified as a Level II trauma facility by the American College of Surgeons and has requested designation status by TDH.

STATUTE REFERENCE

Not applicable

RULE REFERENCE

25 TAC, §157.125 Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation.

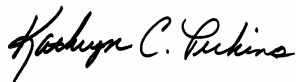
POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline the process by which children's hospitals in Texas may achieve Levels I, II, or III trauma designation status. Level IV designation status will not be available at this time.

(A) The Bureau of Emergency Management (bureau) shall recommend to the commissioner of health (commissioner) the trauma facility designation of children's hospitals as follows:

- (1) Comprehensive (Level I) trauma facility designation, if the applicant children's hospital meets or exceeds the current American College of Surgeons (ACS) essential criteria for a verified Level I trauma center, actively participates on the appropriate regional advisory council (RAC), and submits data to the state trauma registry;
 - (2) Major (Level II) trauma facility designation, if the applicant children's hospital meets or exceeds the current ACS essential criteria for a verified Level II trauma center, actively participates on the appropriate RAC, and submits data to the state trauma registry.
 - (3) General (Level III) trauma facility designation, if the applicant children's hospital meets or exceeds the current ACS essential criteria for a verified Level III trauma center, actively participates on the appropriate RAC, and submits data to the state trauma registry.
- (B) The survey team composition shall be as follows:
- (1) The ACS survey team members for Level I, II, and III children's hospital trauma facility applicants shall be multidisciplinary and include at a minimum a pediatric general surgeon; a general surgeon; an emergency physician; and a pediatric trauma nurse, all active in the management of trauma patients.

TS-03-B



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June 2003
Date