

29 Trauma Centers in PA

There are 29 trauma centers in the Commonwealth!

credited as a level two trauma center.

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. was accredited by the PTSF Board of Directors at the July deliberations. This hospital is ac-

Additionally, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center has upgraded to a level one pediatric trauma center. All trauma centers are listed at www.ptsf.org.

ED Closure Included in Standards of Accreditation

The Foundation Board of Directors considers closing a hospital's emergency room doors to trauma patients a serious issue because it reflects on the capacity and ability of a facility to care for incoming trauma patients.

dation (PTSF) will incorporate Emergency Department (ED) closure into the Commitment Standard (Std. 1) within the "Standards for Trauma Center Accreditation," based on criteria set forth by the American College of Surgeons "Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 2006."

As of October 1, 2008, the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foun-

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PTSF Welcomes New Board Member



At the July board meeting, the PTSF Board of Directors approved William Hoff, MD, FACS into their membership.

Dr. Hoff is the trauma program medical director at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem and was nominated by the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma.

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Save these Dates!

- **October 8-10, 2008.** Digital Innovations Conference, Spokane, Washington.
- **October 22-24, 2008.** 12th Annual PTSF & PaCOT Fall Conference & Meeting, Hilton-Harrisburg, Harrisburg, Pa.
- **December 6, 2008.** The 15th Annual Day of Trauma. The Union League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.

Board Approves Fee Increases

On September 17, 2008 the PTSF Board of Directors approved increases in its fees to hospitals which will be effective on January 1, 2009. The last fee increase was in 2002.

Transportation and technology costs have increased over the last six years and the Foundation was zeroed out of the state budget for fiscal year 2009.

PTSF had received \$100,000 annually from the Common-

wealth. In 2008 it was decreased to \$50,000 and eliminated in 2009.

Highlights of the fee increase include a \$1500 increase in participation fees, a site survey increase of \$1000 per surveyor on a site survey team and an application for survey fee for trauma centers on a two and three-year site survey cycle. A letter was mailed to hospital CEO's and trauma coordinators this week. The decision to increase fees

was made after intense deliberation by the Board of Directors, realizing the impact this increase will have on the trauma center community. As PTSF moves forward to create a financial plan for the future, we ask that each of you educate your legislators regarding the important work we do so that funding for PTSF can be reinstated to avoid future increases.

ED Closure Included in Standards of Accreditation

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It is this commitment to trauma that has ten out of 27 trauma centers keeping their doors open to trauma victims 24 hours a day, seven days each week.

Additionally, 15 trauma centers in the Commonwealth had less than 100 hours of closure reported to the Foundation at each center. This includes closure times as few as 80 minutes over the course of an entire year.

As reported to the Board of Directors this year, the most common causes for ED closure were ED capacity exceeded, ICU capacity exceeded and multiple, simultaneous trauma alerts.

It is situations like these that caused three trauma centers to reach, or exceed, 100 hours of closure amounting to a total of 1,105 hours reported in the fiscal year 2008. One of those centers

accounted for 79% of the hours.

As outlined in a Board-approved PTSF policy, hospitals that divert trauma patients greater than five percent of the time are at risk for "Board action, up to and including suspension of trauma center accreditation."

The 2008 Standards of Accreditation, which take effect on October 1, 2008, include the following essential requirement for all levels of trauma centers:

"Emergency department availability for stabilization and transfer of trauma patients maintained on a continuous 24-hour basis [is essential]. When the trauma center is unable to provide care, a log of closure or bypass date, time, duration, and cause will be maintained. This information must be reported to the Foundation on an annual basis. The maximum amount of time that a trauma center can be on diversion is 5% or

438 hours per year. The institution must notify the local Public Safety Access Point (PSAP)/911 Center when the institution goes on diversion and when the institution comes off of diversion."

Currently, trauma centers that meet or exceed 100 hours of ED closure are required to initiate action plans to address this issue as well as provide quarterly reports outlining any closures to the PTSF Board of Directors. The intent of this is to encourage proactive solutions by the trauma center before noncompliance to the standard occurs.



PTSF Issues Position Statement on Helmet Use

The PTSF Board of Directors issued a press release on August 19, 2008. This statement was issued throughout Pennsylvania regarding the Foundation's position on the mandatory use of motorcycle helmets in the Commonwealth. It is the first press release of its kind in support of legislative efforts to prevent injury. The release was written as follows:

Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation releases data supporting mandatory use of motorcycle helmets.

MECHANICSBURG (July 25, 2008) -- The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation which is the accrediting body for trauma centers in Pennsylvania, has released data to the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and

Finance Committee regarding the outcomes of motorcyclists involved in crashes since the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law in Pennsylvania in 2003. This data combined with a recently published study done at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center supports the need for the Pennsylvania legislature to reenact a law requiring mandatory helmet use in all motorcyclists regardless of age. Key findings of the studies since the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law included:

- Helmet use by motorcyclists involved in reported motorcycle crashes decreased from 82 percent to 58 percent.
- The number of fatal motorcycle crashes increased 31 percent.
- The number of head injury

related motorcycle cases that were hospitalized increased 50% from 2002 to 2004

- Brain injury deaths from motorcycle crashes increased 32%.
- The number of head injured patients that were hospitalized increased 42%.
- The number of head injured motorcyclists requiring care at rehabilitation facilities increased 87%.
- Non head injured motorcyclists requiring care at a rehabilitation facility increased 16%.

PTSF urges all Pennsylvania citizens to contact their legislators to push for reinstatement of mandatory helmets on all motorcyclists.

2009 arrives early for Registrars

Foundation registry staff members are in full "get ready for 2009" mode.

For us, this means reviewing COLLECTOR changes, preparing PTOS manual updates, scheduling meetings and sessions, determining software upgrades, determining 2009 goals and committees and developing a budget for all of it.

So what are some things that may affect you? Well, of course there will be COLLECTOR changes. The biggest change for 2009 is the move to a new COLLECTOR platform we call "Version Four." In addition, "Report Writer" will become the main application used for querying and reporting.

Whether we will move to using AIS 2005 is still uncertain. Digital Innovation will not have Text-to-Code capabilities available for PTSF for AIS 2005 coding for next year. In order to assign AIS 2005 codes, you would need to utilize a drill down encoder system.

What is also new for 2009 is an all-electronic PTOS manual. Institutions will not receive a hard copy, but rather they will receive a PDF file. This PDF file will be tabbed by section. Details on all things coming for 2009 will be presented at the fall conference in October.

Zoomerang! Registry Survey

Keep your eyes out for a survey from PTSF through Zoomerang. It's a survey regarding current data elements, focusing on how easy you feel they may or may not be to abstract and how important you think they are to collect. The survey will be tailored for specific roles such as, registrar or coordinator. We appreciate your time in completing this survey. Results and comments will be reviewed by the registry committee but will remain anonymous.

Accreditation Update ~ 2008 Survey Season Wrap-Up

The accreditation season has now come to a close for PTSF after the completion of 15 site surveys. For those centers receiving two or three year accreditation, an action plan addressing significant issues is due to the Foundation office no later than November 28, 2008.

Prior to submission, PTSF staff members are available to review action plans and discuss the site survey day. Staff will make recommendations based on previous best practices, assist with clarification of the report and review your draft plan. Trauma centers are encouraged to schedule these meetings with Paige Jordan. Meetings can be conducted via telephone or in person, as schedules allow.

PTSF staff involved on the call may range from 1-3 staff members depending on the nature of the issues cited.

ELECTONIC APPLICATION FOR SURVEY (E-AFS)

The electronic AFS is moving forward according to the software development schedule. The target date continues to be the 2009 site survey season. There is a small group of centers that will be testing each module as it is made available. This testing should begin mid-August 2008.

The "Site Survey Guidebook" is complete for 2009 and is posted on the members only, accreditation section of the website. If

your trauma center is scheduled for survey in 2009, please take time to review this guide. Even if you have been through the survey process before, changes were made to enhance the process; and they are covered in the guide.

SITE SURVEY CHANGES

Beginning with Accreditation Reports written in 2008, the "Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement" section of the report will be shared with site surveyors and Board members as part of the accreditation deliberation process, in conjunction with the next scheduled survey visit. This is a change from the prior practice of only sharing "Significant Issues."

Policy & Procedure Committee Update

Mary Kate FitzPatrick, RN, MSN, Committee Chair, Foundation Board Member

New trauma centers will now submit records to the Foundation beginning August 1st of the year prior to their PTSF consultative visit.

This change to the policy, "Process for Becoming a New Trauma Center," was recommended by the Policy & Procedure Committee, and approved at the July Foundation Board meeting. Previously, new trauma centers were required to submit records to the Foundation as of January 1st of the year of the consultative visit. New trauma centers are still required to abstract records, no later than July 1st of the year prior to the consultative visit.

This change will enhance the

educational registry visit by allowing PTSF to review abstracted data earlier and help the center avoid abstraction errors which could impact the integrity of the data used for the consultative visit and eventual site survey.

Committee members also reviewed two additional Board approved policies. These policies, "Appeals & Procedures on Appeals" and "Requests from Applicant Hospitals for Reconsideration of Accreditation Decisions by the Board of Directors," were also approved by the Board at the July meeting.

The "Appeals" policy was reviewed and no changes were

made. The second policy, related to "Accreditation Decisions" was created as a new policy. This policy outlines current Board practice, giving trauma centers a clear understanding of the process related to voicing concerns to the board of directors regarding accreditation decisions that a hospital may not agree upon. These policies will be posted in the members-only, accreditation section of the PTSF website.

Committee members also updated the guidelines that Board members use during accreditation deliberations, making the criteria for one, two and three year accreditation more defined.

Strategic Planning Session Builds Vision for the Future

On September 16th the PTSF Board of Directors and invited guests met to discuss the Foundation's Strategic Plan and to create a vision for the future.

Members at the table represented a variety of stakeholder groups including the Pennsylvania Medical Society, Pa Division of the Committee on Trauma, PATNAC, PEHSC, HAP, PaACEP, Pa Orthopedic Society and Pa Neurologic Society.

Led by John Eldred, members discussed the original mission of the Foundation as mandated in the EMS Act, and how the Foundation could meet the needs of Pennsylvania's trauma system moving forward beyond its basic task of accrediting hospitals as trauma centers.

To set the stage for creating this vision, Board members reviewed the results of the ACS Trauma System Consultation Assessment of Pennsylvania. Focus areas from this assessment included reducing the communication "silos" that exist between PTSF and other organizations, as well as enhancing education of citizens, community hospitals and legislators about the value of trauma centers and the benefits of accreditation.

The status of trauma systems throughout the country was reviewed, noting the qualities that make PA unique.

An important goal is to increase the use of PTOS and POPIMS data to assess the quality of trauma care delivery and create a "Best Practice" model for the

treatment of trauma patients among all regions of the Commonwealth. These strategies will be used to make Pennsylvania the premier trauma system in the country whereby every injured person would be assured the best quality care and optimal outcomes.

At the conclusion of the session, the next steps were discussed including: crafting a vision statement, requesting support from partnering organizations and creating the necessary conditions for the vision to be realized. As the Foundation moves forward, we will keep all of you abreast of our plans and welcome your support in maintaining and enhancing a trauma system we can all be proud of.

Website Growth for www.ptsf.org

As many of you know the Foundation developed a new website.

We have appreciated all the positive feedback and we understand some of the frustration as well. We are working everyday to upload old content and provide new content. Much of the old content that was available at our old site will again be available shortly. It is our hope, that when fully functional, the website will become a valuable tool for your everyday use. Looking forward we hope to incorporate greater functionality including access to a library of documents, the ability to update our

trauma center directory, keep up to date on news and page changes through an RSS feed, and to eventually maintain your electronic application for survey. One new function of the website will be the ability to update our PTSF member directory through your member login.



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**PTSF/PaCOT
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Board Approves Proposed Revisions to EMS Act

The PTSF Board of Directors approved changes to the EMS Act in the event the bill is reintroduced in January of 2009.

The changes would involve adding an additional PSNA member to the Board and deleting language regarding the Foundation

developing standards for only Level I, II, and III trauma centers.

By deleting trauma center level language, the Foundation could development standards for other levels of trauma centers in the future if it elects to do so.



Trauma Program Coordinators

If your trauma program received a site survey in 2008, please do not forget to submit the annual HAP surveys, Part 1 & 2.

The deadline for submission is:
November 7, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact
Kevin Burd at kburd@ptsf.org



PTSF uses Zoomerang.com for online survey needs. To make sure you're receiving these periodic surveys, please confirm that your SPAM filter will allow email from "zoomerang.com" to make it's way into your inbox!