

### **Purpose:**

To provide a mechanism by which non-board certified physicians can be approved to care for trauma patients by using the Alternate Pathway process. This applies to only those physicians who, by Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Standards of Accreditation, are required to be Board Certified.

### **Procedure:**

1. Application for Alternate Pathway, Phase 1
    - a. Hospital identifies a non-board certified physician at the time of hire or assignment as a trauma team member and initiates the PTSF Alternate Pathway process.
    - b. Hospital submits the Alternate Pathway Phase 1 Form (Appendix A) and required documentation to the PTSF Director of Accreditation via email.
      - i. Required Documentation as applicable:
        1. Alternate Pathway Phase 1 Form
        2. Letter signed by Trauma Program Medical Director (TPMD) attesting:
          - a. The number of physician specialists in the community is limited.
          - b. The quality and length of the residency program completed by the physician is consistent with the years of training in the US (If not completed in the US).
          - c. The physician's participation in an internal educational process and the PIPS program.
        3. Curriculum vitae.
        4. Pennsylvania medical license.
        5. Residency certificate.
        6. ATLS certificate if applicable.
        7. Letter of approval from institution's credentialing committee.
      - c. PTSF will review the submitted material and either request additional information, or grant temporary approval of the Alternate Pathway.
        - i. Temporary approval enables this provider to care for trauma patients for a period not to exceed 16-months.
        - ii. Notification of decision will be communicated to the requesting hospital, and will include the expiration date of the temporary approval and the due date of the application for Phase 2.
  2. Trauma Performance Review Cycle
    - a. During the period between the temporary approval and the Phase 2 submission date, approximately 12-months, the trauma program will review all trauma care provided by the surgeon/physician through the performance improvement process.
    - b. It is expected that the morbidity and mortality results for patients treated by the surgeon/physician compare favorably with the morbidity and mortality results for comparable patients treated by other members of the trauma team.
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### 3. Application for Alternate Pathway, Phase 2

- a. Hospital submits the Alternate Pathway Phase 2 Form (Appendix B) and required documentation to the PTSF Director of Accreditation via email.
  - i. Required Documentation as applicable:
    1. Alternate Pathway Phase 2 Form
    2. Letter signed by the TPMD attesting that the surgeon/physician meets all other qualifications for members of the trauma team.
    3. Documentation demonstrating at least 50% participation in the trauma performance improvement/peer review meetings (if applicable).
    4. CME documentation, this must include the title of the event and the number of hours related to trauma care as per the PTSF Standards of Accreditation, during the previous 12-month review period.
    5. Morbidity and mortality data, and performance improvement assessment by the TPMD.
- b. Submitted forms and documents will be blinded and reviewed by the PTSF Standards Committee for motion to the PTSF Board of Directors
  - i. The Standards Committee Chairman will present the Alternate Pathway request and proposed motion to the Board for review and action, including final determination.
- c. PTSF will notify the requesting TPMD and Trauma Program Manager of the Board's decision.
- d. Permanent approval enables this provider to care for trauma patients at the requesting institution.

### 4. Ongoing Monitoring

- a. The hospital will disclose the alternate pathway within the Application for Survey (AFS).
- b. The hospital will identify the medical records chosen for site survey medical record review that includes care by the alternate pathway provider(s).
  - i. Via email, communication will be sent to the Director of Accreditation noting the specific records and the alternate pathway provider's name attached to each record.
  - ii. On site survey day, the trauma center will mark the performance improvement documents.
  - iii. The Board will be alerted to medical records that include care by an alternate pathway provider.

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Approved by PTSF Board of Directors:

Original Date: 03/10/2004

Revise Date: 06/27/2013; 12/07/2018; 07/11/2019

Review Date: 04/01/2016; 07/01/2019

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### Appendix A: Application for Alternate Pathway, Phase 1

Submit at time of hire or assignment as trauma team member

Trauma Program Medical Director (TPMD) requesting variance:	
Institution:	
Name of physician requiring Alternate Pathway:	
Specialty of physician requiring Alternate Pathway:	
Is this physician serving as the subspecialty liaison?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date of request:	
Date physician begins assignment as trauma team member:	
Reason for Alternate Pathway Request:	<input type="checkbox"/> non-U.S./non-Canadian trained <input type="checkbox"/> completed U.S./Canadian residency, no longer board eligible <input type="checkbox"/> other, specify

Alternate Pathway Criteria	Evidence Submitted to PTSF
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of physician specialists in community is limited. <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of participation in an internal educational process conducted by the trauma program based on principles of practiced-based learning and the PIPS program. <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the <b>non-U.S. or non-Canadian trained</b> surgeon/physician successfully completed a residency training program in general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, emergency medicine, radiology or anesthesiology with a time period for the residency program that is consistent with the years of training in the United States.  <i>N/A for U.S. or Canadian trained physicians</i>	Letter signed by Trauma Program Medical Director (TPMD) attestation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of physician specialists in the community is limited.</li> <li>• The quality and length of the residency program completed by the physician is consistent with the years of training in the US (If not completed in the US).</li> <li>• The physician's participation in an internal educational process and the PIPS program.</li> </ul>
	Copy of residency certificate

Alternate Pathway Criteria	Evidence Submitted to PTSF
<input type="checkbox"/> Current curriculum vitae.	Copy of curriculum vitae.
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the physician is licensed to practice medicine in Pennsylvania.	Copy of license.
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the <b>U.S. or Canadian-trained</b> surgeon/physician successfully completed a residency training program in general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, emergency medicine, radiology or anesthesiology.  <i>N/A for non-U.S. or non-Canadian trained physicians</i>	Copy of residency certificate.
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the general/trauma surgeon is an ATLS provider or instructor.  <i>N/A for non-general/trauma surgeons</i>	Copy of ATLS certificate.
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the physician is approved for full and unrestricted privileges in the specialty by the hospital's credentialing committee.	Letter of approval from hospital's credentialing committee.

### Appendix B: Application for Alternate Pathway, Phase 2

Submit by due date indicated on Phase 1 Temporary Approval letter

Trauma Program Medical Director (TPMD) requesting variance:	
Institution:	
Name of physician requiring Alternate Pathway:	
Specialty of physician requiring Alternate Pathway:	
Date of temporary approval letter:	

Alternate Pathway Criteria	Evidence Submitted to PTSF
<input type="checkbox"/> Meets all other qualifications for members of the trauma team.	Letter signed by the TPMD.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trauma/General Surgeon or Subspecialty Liaison:</b> Evidence that the physician participated in at least 50% of the trauma performance improvement/peer review meetings during the previous 12-month review period  <i>N/A for subspecialty physicians not liaison</i>	Documentation demonstrating attendance and participation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the surgeon/physician has completed continued educational requirements of his/her specialty, as per the PTSF Standards of Accreditation, during the previous 12-month review period	Documentation of CME completion, including the title of each event and the number of hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Experience in caring for trauma patients, reflected by a performance improvement assessment by the TPMD demonstrating that the morbidity and mortality results for patients treated by the surgeon/physician compare favorably with the morbidity and mortality results for comparable patients treated by other members of the trauma team.	Documentation of performance improvement assessment by the TPMD, and data that details morbidity and mortality comparing the physician requiring Alternate Pathway to other members of the trauma team.