

Process for Board Approval of Waiver Requests from Hospitals Pursuing Adult Level I, II & III Trauma Center Accreditation

Purpose:

Based on passage of Act 54 of 2019 by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, the PTSF Board of Directors is required to develop and implement a process for approving waivers for hospitals wishing to pursue Level I, II or III trauma center accreditation within 25 miles of an accredited trauma center. This policy outlines the procedure a hospital must undergo to pursue Level I, II or III accreditation if less than 25 miles away from neighboring Level I, II or III trauma centers.

Procedure:

A hospital seeking a waiver must follow the process outlined below:

1. The hospital shall submit a formal letter to PTSF requesting a waiver to the 25-mile criteria based on their location within 25 miles travel distance to the closest Level I, II, or III trauma center.
 - A. The formal waiver request shall occur prior to notifying PTSF via a Letter of Intent to pursue accreditation to avoid unnecessary trauma center development activities in the event the hospital is not approved for the waiver.
 - B. In the event a hospital submits a Letter of Intent to pursue Level I, II, or III accreditation without submitting a waiver request, PTSF staff will review the legislative requirements and if the hospital is less than 25 miles away, the hospital will be notified of the need to submit a waiver request.
2. PTSF staff will query the PTOS statewide trauma registry database generating volume data for the previous 3 consecutive calendar years for all Level I, and II trauma centers within 25 miles of the requesting hospital to determine whether each of the trauma centers meet the legislatively mandated 1200 PTOS patient volume annually for 3 consecutive calendar years.
 - A. Volume for a calendar year will be calculated as of April 1 of the following year.
3. The PTOS volume data shall be provided to the PTSF Board of Directors in a blinded fashion at which time the waiver request will be approved or denied based on whether the legislatively mandated PTOS 1200 volume was achieved for every Level I and II trauma center within the 25-mile catchment area of the requesting hospital for three consecutive calendar years.
 - A. Waivers shall be denied if a trauma center within the 25-mile catchment area has less than 1200 PTOS for one of the three preceding calendar years.
4. The hospital will be notified within two business days following the board determination regarding whether a waiver request meets the statutory requirements.
5. The PTSF Board of Directors will review waiver status after every accreditation deliberation meeting. Hospitals that are determined to be ineligible for continued pursuit due to volume criteria of the waiver requirements, will be notified within two business days.

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Other considerations:

1. The approval of a waiver will not eliminate the eligibility for other pursuing hospitals from requesting a waiver.
2. See AC-130 for details regarding the pursuit process.
3. Trauma centers accredited prior to July 2, 2019, will not require a waiver in the event they pursue a higher trauma level designation.

Approved by PTSF Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee:

Original Date: 09/27/2013

Revise Date: 07/23/2020

Review Date: 1/16/2026