

The following communication highlights recent approvals from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021. If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

## LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTER ACCREDITATION APPROVED FOR FOUR HOSPITALS

The PTSF Board of Directors approved Level 2 trauma center accreditation to four hospitals in Pennsylvania effective September 1, 2021. Congratulations to the following hospitals:

- Adult Level II Trauma Center Accreditation:  
Grand View Health – Grand View Hospital – Sellersville, PA
- Adult Level II Trauma Center Accreditation:  
Lehigh Valley Health Network – Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg – Bethlehem, PA
- Adult Level II Trauma Center Accreditation:  
St. Luke’s University Health Network – St. Luke’s Hospital Anderson Campus – Easton, PA
- Adult Level II Trauma Center Accreditation:  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – Williamsport – Williamsport, PA

These accreditations will bring the total number of accredited trauma centers to 46 in Pennsylvania on September 1<sup>st</sup>. To see the latest PTSF press release regarding the status of accredited trauma centers, please go to <https://www.ptsf.org/trauma-center-accreditation-granted-to-four-additional-hospitals-in-pennsylvania/>

## PTSF DEI COMMITTEE LAUNCHING

In December 2020, the PTSF Board approved a Diversity-Equity-Inclusion statement to show its commitment as an inclusive organization that promotes this value in trauma centers:

*The PTSF supports diversity, equality, and inclusion of all people. We as an organization are committed to equal access and care for all trauma patients and residents of Pennsylvania. We recognize the challenges that face various marginalized communities in Pennsylvania and dedicate our efforts to providing excellent care to everyone. As an organization we strive to have representation from a diverse group of healthcare providers and administrators that represent our constituency and give voice to the issues of our communities.*

*To that end the PTSF encourages all our collaborating institutions and partners to share our vision and to promote a diverse representation of clinicians and administrators to serve as board and committee members. We envision a shared perspective of trauma and patient care in Pennsylvania that is first class and includes our the most vulnerable in our communities.*

To operationalize the commitment voiced above, the PTSF will form a DEI Committee under the leadership of Board Members Barbara Gaines, MD, and Henry Boateng, MD. Both serve on the PTSF Board as representatives of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Dr. Gaines is a trauma surgeon employed at UPMC Presbyterian and Dr. Boateng is an orthopedic surgeon employed at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. The mission of the Committee is to ensure that the

activities of the PTSF are free from bias, that the needs of all trauma patients in the Commonwealth are addressed equitably, and that voices of all stakeholders are heard.

Goals of the Committee include:

- Providing consultation to the Board on issues related to diversity and inclusion in all areas of the PTSF, including staffing, Committees membership, survey teams.
- Performing research, using the PTOS database, to evaluate disparities in outcomes among trauma patients in PA, and develop an action plan as issues are identified.
- Surveying the trauma community to assess their sense of inclusion within the PTSF.
- Reviewing standards and other PTSF documentation to specifically address issues related to implicit bias and inclusivity.
- Highlighting best practices addressing workforce diversity, inclusivity, and health care disparities
- Encouraging trauma centers to evaluate and address issues related to diversity within their own centers.
- Collaborating with other areas within the trauma community both nationally and regionally to support these efforts at all levels

The PTSF Staff Liaison to the committee will be Darlene Gondell, Manager of Accreditation. More information will be coming by email to all PA trauma centers. Committee Membership decisions will be based on assuring a diverse membership in this newly formed committee.

## PTSF STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024 UNDERGOING FINAL REVISIONS

The PTSF Board in collaboration with the Trauma System Development and Outcomes Committee finalized focus areas of the PTSF Strategic Plan which will be approved with an accompanying work plan at the PTSF Board Meeting on September 16, 2021. Areas of focus include:

- Trauma System Development – priorities will include trauma center development in underserved areas in Pennsylvania and supporting new trauma program staff through mentoring programs.
- Performance Improvement – work will continue to establish annual focus areas to enhance clinical outcomes in trauma centers. Optimizing trauma registry and performance improvement software will be a high priority for PTSF staff.
- Operations – as the number of trauma centers increase in PA, PTSF will be committed to assuring appropriate PTSF staffing to support trauma centers. Processes related to Board Accreditation Deliberations will also be examined to assure the process is as efficient and effective as possible.

As a work plan is finalized committee input will be sought. The final plan will be presented at the PTSF Fall Conference.

## PTSF RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Stanislaw Stawicki, MD—Committee Chair  
Daniel Holena, MD —Committee Vice-Chair  
[Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN, —Staff Liaison

### COVID-19 WORKGROUPS SHOWCASE EFFORTS

Three COVID-19 research committee work groups were formed this past year to investigate COVID-19 impacts on the trauma system in Pennsylvania. Two of those work groups were notified that their work was accepted for publication.

Congratulations to members of the PTSF Research Committee for putting Pennsylvania in the spotlight!

Study: The Impact of COVID-19 Infection on Outcomes After Injury in a State Trauma System,

- Authors: Kaufman, Elinore J. MD, MS; Ong, Adrian W. MD; Cipolle, Mark D. MD, PhD, MS; Whitehorn, Gregory BA; Ratnasekera, Asanthi DO; Stawicki, Stanislaw P. MD, MBA; Martin, Niels D. MD.
- Publication: Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery: June 1, 2021 - Volume Publish Ahead of Print - Issue - doi: 10.1097/TA.0000000000003310. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34074996/>

Study: Rising Incidence of Interpersonal Violence in Pennsylvania During COVID-19 Stay-At Home Order.

- Authors: Ratnasekera A, Seng SS, Jacovides C, Kolb R, Hanlon A, Stawicki SP, Martin ND, Kaufman EJ.
- Publication: Surgery, 2021, in press. [https://www.surgjournal.com/article/S0039-6060\(21\)00619-X/fulltext](https://www.surgjournal.com/article/S0039-6060(21)00619-X/fulltext)

## STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Charles Barbara, MD—Committee Chair  
Kimberly Gorman, DNP, AG-ACNP-BC, RN, CNL, CNRN, TCRN—Committee Vice-Chair  
[Darlene Gondell](#), MSN, RN, CCRN-K, CNRN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

The Board of Directors approved the following Standards of Accreditation changes and clarifications that the Standards of Accreditation Committee proposed during the July board meeting, including:

### Standard 1: Commitment

- Added “Tourniquet utilization” to the list of criteria that is recommended for hospitals to consider including in any level of trauma activation criteria.

### Standard 3: TPMD; Standard 4: TPM; & Standard 6: PIPS

- For Level IV Trauma Centers only: Added STN-Rural TOPIC course as an option for Performance Improvement process education for Level IV TPMD, TPM and other PI Personnel. Level IV Personnel can take either traditional TOPIC or Rural TOPIC.

\*Note that Rural TOPIC is not an approved Performance Improvement process course for Level I-III Trauma Center Personnel.

### Standard 8: Injury Prevention, Public Education & Outreach

- Clarified the SBIRT Standard.
  - Specifically clarified that 80% of all injured patients (PTOS), regardless of being activated or not activated, and regardless of admitting service must be screened.

- Specifically clarified that 100% of those patients that screen positive must have a brief intervention offered to them.
- Specifically clarified that those patients refusing resources counts as the hospital offering an intervention.

## Standard 10: Physicians

- For Level I-III Trauma Centers only: Revised the expectation for Board Eligible physicians to become Board Certified. PTSF no longer has a timeframe for achieving Board Certification. Board eligibility will be determined by the appropriate Board, and only when no-longer Board Eligible the provider would be unacceptable for inclusion on the trauma team until an alternate pathway is approved.

## Standard 16: Physicians; & Standard 23: Radiology

- Clarified that hospitals must define the patient population that requires monitoring during transport and while in Radiology, but at a minimum this population must include those patients activated at the highest level of trauma alert during the resuscitative phase of care.
- Clarified that hospitals must define the appropriate personnel to accompany and monitor the patient during transport and while in Radiology.

## Standard 27: Geriatrics

- Adult Trauma Centers only: Clarified that multidisciplinary geriatric trauma patient management guidelines (protocols) that include resuscitation, critical care and rehabilitation are required.
  - Expected compliance by 6.1.2022

## Standard 28: Pediatrics

- Adult Trauma Centers only: Clarified that pediatric trauma patient management guidelines (protocols) that include resuscitation, critical care and rehabilitation are required.
  - Expected compliance by 6.1.2022

## Appendix D

- Level IV Trauma Centers only: Added the following to the list of required clinical management guidelines, with the expectation that the guideline will be consistent with the hospital's capabilities and provides guidance on patient management prior to transfer to higher-level trauma center for further management.
  1. Unstable pelvic and acetabular fractures
  2. Long bone fracture management
  3. Open fracture management
  - Expected compliance by 6.1.2022

The revised Standards of Accreditation (dated 8.1.2021) are available in a new section of the PTSF website dedicated to the Standards: [VISIT THE STANDARDS PAGE](#). If you have any requests for the Standards Committee, including topic discussions or Standards revisions please submit your request anytime [HERE](#). The next Standards Committee meetings occur in August and October. Any requests for subject discussion will be included in the October agenda.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

August 3, 2021

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## TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES

### ESO UPDATE

PTSF understands that challenges continue among PA trauma centers regarding widespread software issues involving PTSF vendor ESO. ESO Support is currently reaching out to every PA trauma center to install EEV (Advantage Server) licenses and investigate if there are any corrupt records present in V5. If ESO does not contact your facility regarding EEV by August 6, 2021, please inform PTSF staff.

PTSF staff is committed to supporting PA trauma centers and continues to advocate on behalf of all PA trauma centers to get ESO related issues resolved in a timely fashion. To help us best support you, we ask that all customer service concerns brought to the attention of ESO also be communicated directly to Lyndsey Diehl, PTSF Director of Trauma Data Quality at [ldiehl@ptsf.org](mailto:ldiehl@ptsf.org).

Remember, a new support email address has been created for use by PA trauma centers. The new email address is [support.ptsf@eso.com](mailto:support.ptsf@eso.com). NOTE: For high priority items, call into the ESO Support line at 866-766-9471 (select option 3) to connect with a registry technical support representative. If you are not directly connected to a representative, please leave a voicemail. ESO should call you back within one hour.

### PTOS AND OUTCOMES RISK ASSESSMENT PROJECT

A risk assessment of PTOS and Outcomes data is currently underway to ensure that recipients of PTOS and Outcomes data from PTSF are unable to determine either patient or hospital identity associated with the data. The company performing the assessment has informed PTSF that the project will not be completed until the end of August at the earliest. During this time, trauma centers may still request data although the data elements may be limited based on the nature of the request. To request this dataset, complete a PTOS Data Application, found here: <https://www.ptsf.org/research/request-trauma-registry-data/>. Please direct any research related questions to Stephanie Radzevick at [sradzevick@ptsf.org](mailto:sradzevick@ptsf.org) or Juliet Altenburg at [jaltenburg@ptsf.org](mailto:jaltenburg@ptsf.org).

### PTOS QUARTERLY REPORTS AND DRILLER

PA Trauma Centers should have recently received their Q1 2021 Quarterly Reports. Q2 2021 Quarterly Reports will be sent by the end of August. Driller is currently only populated with data through Q4 2020. PTSF staff is working with ESO to update both Q1 2021 and Q2 2021 data as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

## TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES

Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN, CCRN-K—Trauma Registry Committee, Chair  
[Lyndsey Diehl](#), RHIA, CHDA, CSTR—Trauma Registry Committee, Staff Liaison

The Trauma Registry Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes to PTOS/Collector. These changes are effective January 1, 2022 and will be reflected in the 2022 PTOS Manual and 2022 Collector software. All changes to PTOS/Collector for 2022 admissions will be discussed in detail during the PTSF Fall Conference.

### PTOS Data Elements Required for Burn Patients at Burn Centers

The following data elements will be removed from the PTOS dataset:

- Type of Burn Injury (i.e., chemical, electricity, fire, etc.) – Demographic/Injury Tab
  - Appendix 6
- \*When was the initial nutrition assessment performed? – Clinical/Nutrition and Admission Tab
  - Talked about having option to disable for non-burn centers previously
- \*When was nutrition initially started? – Clinical/Nutrition and Admission Tab
- \*Type of nutrition – Clinical/Nutrition and Admission Tab
- Outcome/Burn Tab
  - Discharge Weight and unit of measurement
  - Burn patient follow-up
  - Was burn patient readmitted due to development of a hospital event?
  - Burn Wound Management
- Dx/Burn Dx Tab
  - Extent of Body Surface Involved
  - Initial Carboxyhemoglobin
  - PAO2
  - FIO2
  - P/F Ratio (auto calc)
  - Was a Bronchoscopy Performed
- Dx/Lund and Browder Tab
  - Lund and Browder Chart

\*The Nutrition data elements will remain in PTOS as optional data elements that can be enabled or disabled by the trauma center.

### Injuries that Occur after Hospital Admission

The current exclusion criteria guideline states, “an injury that occurs after hospital admission is considered a complication of medical care and should not be reported.” This language will be changed to read, “an injury that occurs after admission to your facility is considered a complication of medical care and should not be reported.”

### Sepsis

76=Sepsis to be retired from PTOS. Severe Sepsis to be added as a Hospital Event utilizing the NTDB data definition.

### Audit Filter 3a

Patients who arrive with signs of life but expire within two hours of hospital arrival will no longer trigger Audit Filter 3a, patient with admission Glasgow Coma Scale score <13 and no head computerized tomography (CT) scan within 2 hours of

arrival at hospital excluding DOAs.

The next Trauma Registry Committee meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2021. Please send any requests for discussion to Lyndsey Diehl by August 13, 2021.

## PA-TQIP COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Denise Torres, MD – Geisinger Medical Center  
Russell Dumire, MD – Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center  
Donna Titus, MSN, RN, CEN – Jefferson Torresdale  
Jill Volgraf, BA, RN – Temple University Hospital  
[Rebecca Geyer](#), MSN, RN, TCRN – PTSF Staff Liaison  
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR – PTSF Staff Liaison

The PA-TQIP Collaborative welcomes Dr. Russell Dumire as the new PA-COT representative to the collaborative leadership team! We look forward to additional members from hospitals that will be approved as accredited trauma centers as of Sept 1, 2021. If there are any questions regarding getting started with TQIP, centers can reach out to the PA-TQIP Collaborative leadership team.

At our June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, we reviewed the semi-annual PA-TQIP Collaborative data and have selected penetrating injuries as our next focus. Data elements were sent out to all Collaborative members for review. The Collaborative is also working to start a pediatric-focused workgroup to establish radiologic recommendations prior to transfer and recommendations for non-accidental trauma workup. The pediatrics workgroup is recruiting members from both adult and pediatric centers, to include input from both referring and accepting facilities.

The next PA-TQIP Collaborative meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2021. Please send any requests for discussion to Rebecca Geyer or Gaby Wenger by Sept 7, 2021.

## OUTCOMES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Denise Torres, MD – Geisinger Medical Center  
Russell Dumire, MD – Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center  
Donna Titus, MSN, RN, CEN – Jefferson Torresdale  
Jill Volgraf, BA, RN – Temple University Hospital  
[Rebecca Geyer](#), MSN, RN, TCRN – PTSF Staff Liaison  
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR – PTSF Staff Liaison

The Outcomes Committee has begun the process of providing clarification regarding PI review of death cases. A workgroup has been created and is starting work to provide better clarity behind the policy statement from Policy TO-100. A survey was sent out to all TPMs and PI Coordinators for input. Please be sure to respond.

The next Outcomes Committee meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2021. Please send any requests for discussion to Rebecca Geyer or Gaby Wenger by August 13, 2021.



## PIPS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Richard Lopez, DO Committee Chair – Geisinger Wyoming Valley  
Kim Shoff, BSN, RN, CCRN-K Committee Vice Chair – WellSpan York Hospital  
[Rebecca Geyer](#), MSN, RN, TCRN – PTSF Staff Liaison  
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR – PTSF Staff Liaison

The PIPS Committee has begun review of Audit Filters, and has started with Audit Filters 4a, 4b and 5. All Committee members should have received a survey allowing for input into these specific audit filters. Please be sure to provide your input.

The next PIPS Committee meeting is scheduled for Sept 7, 2021. Please send any requests for discussion to Rebecca Geyer or Gaby Wenger by August 20, 2021.

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

New PI Educational recordings have been posted to the PTSF website, under PI Education. The two topics that are now available are: *Understanding Trauma Scoring: GCS, RTS, AIS, ISS and TRISS* as well as *Understanding Undertriage: Review Tools and Reports (including Cribari and NFTI)*. Both webinars have been recorded by trauma consultant, Kathleen Martin and are available to all PA Trauma Centers free of charge.

## A NOTE FROM PTSF MANAGER OF TRAUMA PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT, REBECCA GEYER



Hi! My name is Rebecca Geyer and as you know, I've recently joined the PTSF team to support PI initiatives across the state. Some of you might be wondering what the Manager of PI does and how that position might interact with you and your trauma center staff.

Have you ever wished that you just had one more PI Coordinator to help build a new report, or analyze data for a challenging initiative? Consider me a free resource to help in those times. I have worked in PI and led many projects over the years. These include utilizing Lean Six Sigma methodology in challenging cases that has resulted in truly remarkable outcomes. Many centers have onboarded new PI staff over the past year and have experienced our new PI onboarding process that is available to any new PI staff, or current PI staff that would be interested. We provide two PI classes virtually, that cover PI Theory and Overview (part 1), and then also the PaV5 Outcomes Software, and how to run reports, and do case analyses from those reports. These sessions are live and geared toward your hospital's specific needs based on level of accreditation and the maturity of your PI program.



Hopefully, you have also seen the new on-demand educational webinars that are posted on our PTSF website, under [PI Education](#). There are currently two new webinars that were taught by Kathleen Martin, Trauma Systems Consultant. I plan to continue educational webinars like these to increase the amount of PI education that is available to trauma centers across the state. PTSF recognizes the many challenges trauma centers face in implementing effective trauma PI programs. These include adopting JCAHO taxonomy and utilizing mandated PTSF PI software. PTSF Staff and its PI committees are working to support trauma centers through these challenges and more, as part of the strategic planning process to elevate PI moving into the future.

Before I close, I'd like to also share just briefly about myself. I live in Zanesville, Ohio (rural city, outside Columbus, OH) with my husband (Geoff) and 2 kids (Lexie, 11 and Scott, 8). My kids would tell you that one of my goals for raising them includes ensuring they see the joy and fun in life (I invite you to ask me about Patch Adams), and we usually build that fun into cycling adventures, hiking, and exploring. My extended family lives near Pittsburg and Philadelphia and I have spent countless hours on the PA turnpike. (Thank you, pandemic, for automatic tolls now!). Living out of state means that I am closer to the western side of the state, but I plan to support the entire state, both virtually and in-person, and look forward to meeting each of you when I visit your trauma centers. Contact me at [rgeyer@ptsf.org](mailto:rgeyer@ptsf.org).

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

Submitted by [Kevin Burd](#), Director of Operations

### PTSF Directory

PTSF maintains directories for both Accredited Trauma Centers and hospitals pursuing trauma center accreditation. Names in the directory are also placed within PTSF email groups that are used for PTSF communications. Please submit any changes for your hospital's directory page to PTSF administrative assistant [Linda Stamey](#).

### Address Change

Please be advised that PTSF has a new mailing address, although the physical location has not changed. Please inform your accounting/billing departments. The new address is:

**Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation  
275 Cumberland Parkway, #234  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

We still encourage use of electronic correspondence (EMAIL) since all paper mail is scanned and stored electronically. The only communications that should be mailed through the postal service are hospital payments of trauma center fees.

Thank you for your attention as we attempt to **GO GREEN** when possible!

## OUR ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS



City of Philadelphia  
Department of Public Health, Chronic Disease, and Injury Prevention  
1100 Market Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19109  
[www.coderedpa.org](http://www.coderedpa.org)

The healthcare community sees the physical, mental, and emotional tolls of gun violence on our patients and their families after it happens. But what if we can help stop it from occurring in the first place? Code Red PA use strategic partnerships, education, healthcare services, data-driven policies, and real-life experiences to provide a unique and effective approach to reducing gun violence.

### THEIR WORK IS DESIGNED TO:

- Prevent injuries from gun violence before it occurs
- Reduce the impact of gun violence that has already occurred
- Mitigate the long-term and collateral consequences of all types of gun violence

Code Red PA is on a mission to support healthier communities in Pennsylvania by reducing gun violence and mitigating its long-term effects. There are many ways to get involved and support our work. You can use your voice, your skills, or your story to positively impact communities in our Commonwealth.

One way to get started is to join a committee. These include:

1. Research -- aimed at reviewing, disseminating and spearheading research that supports a public health approach to violence.
2. Outreach and Training--aimed at connecting with community organizations and advocates to keep our work grounded in community
3. Policy--aimed at staying up to date on policy changes in Harrisburg and advocating for evidence-based solution to reducing violence
4. Communications/recruitment--aimed at engaging new partners and communicating priorities and findings to partners. "

## NEW TRAUMA PROGRAM LEADER ORIENTATION

Trauma Nurse Colleagues, the *New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation* is scheduled on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. This optional course offers an overview for nurse leaders who are new to their roles in both accredited trauma centers and hospitals pursuing trauma accreditation. The primary audience includes Trauma Program Coordinators/Managers, Trauma Program Directors and Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinators.

Provided by PTSF staff, this course features several topics to orient you, and guide you in your new role. Highlights include the American College of Surgeons (ACS), PTSF, Trauma Registry, Trauma Performance Improvement, Site Survey & Accreditation, Trauma Program Resources, and “Hot Topics in Trauma.”

Keep an eye out for a future registration information. If you have any questions about the New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation, please contact [Anna Over](#), Manager of Trauma Center Development.

## SAVE THE DATE: PTSF ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEETING

PTSF is planning a *virtual* Fall Conference and meeting again this year. October 13-14, 2021; please plan to attend.

## STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Save the Date . . . for upcoming events. If you have events that you would like to advertise on the PTSF calendar, contact [Linda Stamey](#). Remember to check these organization’s websites. Dates are subject to change based on the latest COVID-19 guidance.

Scheduled meetings include:

- August 31 – November 28, 2021 -- [PEHSC, Pennsylvania EMS Conference \(virtual\)](#)
- September 20-22, 2021 -- [American Health Information Management Association \(virtual\)](#)
- September 29 - October 2, 2021 -- [80th Annual Meeting of AAST and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery](#)
- October 23-27, 2021 -- [American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress \(virtual\)](#)
- October 25-28, 2021 -- [American College of Emergency Physicians \(ACEP\) Scientific Assembly](#)

## NEED TO CONTACT A PTSF STAFF MEMBER?

Follow this [LINK](#).