

**PTSF Support of STN Position Statement
on Qualifications and Competencies for the Trauma Program Manager
Approved by PTSF Board of Directors
September 2023**

The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) is in full support of the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) [Position Statement](#) on Qualifications and Competencies for the Trauma Program Manager. PTSF is the accrediting body for trauma centers in Pennsylvania. The organization was created through the combined efforts of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In 1985, the comprehensive Emergency Medical Service Act (Act 45) was signed into law establishing PTSF as the accrediting body for trauma centers mandating that PTSF comply with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) regulations at a minimum. By virtue of this legislation, the PTSF Standards of Accreditation have advanced requirements for the accreditation of trauma centers, often exceeding the ACS minimal thresholds. The Pennsylvania Trauma System continues to be regarded as a national role model in trauma system development and high-quality trauma care through the work of PTSF, its trauma centers, and partnering organizations.

PTSF Standards of Accreditation related to the Trauma Program Manager (TPM) exceed those of the American College of Surgeons. As reflected in the STN Position Statement, the PTSF defines the TPM's minimal requirements for Level I, II and III Accredited Centers as:

- Licensure as a Registered Nurse,
- Evidence of qualification including education, advanced certification, and clinical experience in the care of injured patients,
- Sixteen hours of trauma-related continuing education annually (50 percent of which must be external to the organization), and
- Completion of the STN-TOPIC course within one year of appointment.

PTSF believes that TPMs play an essential role in the delivery of optimal and equitable trauma care to all injured persons and as such request that the ACS to consider additional requirements to include:

- Registered Nurses (RNs) are the professionals best qualified to serve as TPMs by virtue of their education, training, and experience, and whenever possible, the role of the TPM should be assigned to an RN.
- TPMs should hold a minimum of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing; however, a Master of Science Degree is preferred.
- TPMs should complete additional education related to the role of the Trauma Program Manager, such as Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses, the Optimal Trauma Center Organization & Management Course, and Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course,
- The Trauma Certified Registered Nurse (TCRN®) certification, or other advanced certification by an accredited organization, is an important measure of competency for TPMs.
- TPMs should participate in national nursing organizations, attend national meetings, and collaborate with

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organizations serving physicians and interdisciplinary professionals to communicate current evidenced-based care for implementation is essential to the TPM role.

PTSF commends STN for its extensive research and dedication to the advancement of trauma nursing as reflected in the position statement. In conclusion, the PTSF fully supports the Society of Trauma Nurses Position Statement on Qualifications and Competencies for the Trauma Program Manager. We encourage the ACS to amend the current Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2022 manual to include these recommendations.