

BOARD UPDATES



A Message from the PTSF Board of Directors

Henry A. Boateng, MD
PTSF Board Chair

Happy 2025, which marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation. Our state is recognized nationally as a leader in providing cutting-edge trauma care built on research, collaboration, and rigorous standards. The current PTSF Board and staff are very proud to carry this legacy and move into the future.

Speaking of legacy, 2024 marked the end of an era with the retirement of Juliet Altenburg. We extend our deepest gratitude for her leadership over the past years at PTSF and wish her the best on her well-earned retirement. Knowing the importance of strong leadership, stability, and a deep understanding of Pennsylvania Trauma Systems, the PTSF is ecstatic to welcome Amy Kempinski as the new PTSF President. Amy's comprehensive understanding of trauma systems and professional leadership made her the clear choice to lead PTSF into the next chapter of innovative trauma system development.

Amongst the most important of the current initiatives is the transition to TraumaHQ, moving on from our previous data vendor of 40 years. As one can imagine, this is a complex undertaking. With any new endeavor of this magnitude and complexity there will be successes and challenges. The PTSF Board appreciates your collaboration and patience as we refine what will ultimately be an outstanding, sophisticated, and adaptable database that supports and strengthens our mission for decades to come.

The PTSF remains committed to our essential work of accreditation visits. While some adjustments may be necessary as we integrate the new data system, the PTSF staff will continue to provide comprehensive support and communication throughout the process.

PTSF STAFF NEWS



A Message from the President

Amy Kempinski, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN
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As I begin my tenure as President of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF), I am both honored and energized to serve alongside such dedicated professionals who work vigorously to advance trauma care across our Commonwealth. This year marks several pivotal moments for our organization that fill me with optimism for the future.

The PTSF is celebrating an extraordinary milestone, our 40th anniversary, on July 3, 2025. For four decades, the PTSF has been at the forefront of ensuring excellence in trauma care, saving countless lives through our commitment to rigorous standards and continuous improvement. This legacy of service provides a strong foundation as we embark on important strategic planning initiatives that will chart our course for the years ahead. The Board of Director's strategic planning meeting occurs in September and includes collaboration from our statewide partnering organizations.

I am particularly excited about the transition to TraumaHQ, a significant advancement that will modernize our operations and enhance our ability to serve Pennsylvania's trauma centers more effectively. As expected with any new software, this transition is not challenge-free. Not expected are the significant module completion timeline adjustments and delays. The PTSF continues to thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges together. This new software platform represents our commitment to embracing innovation while maintaining the highest standards of trauma care oversight.

As we move forward together, I am committed to building upon a strong foundation while exploring new opportunities. Your expertise, dedication, and unwavering devotion to excellence continue to inspire me, and I look forward to working with each of you to shape the future of trauma care in our state. Thank you for your continued dedication to saving lives and improving outcomes for trauma patients across Pennsylvania.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES



Software Transition and PIPS Update

Rebecca Geyer, MSN, RN, TCRN

Director of Performance Improvement

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Data Migration, the ACS TQIP submission window, and 2025 annual updates have created a busy start for the 2025 software transition. The most recent software release focused on the Registry record and data migration. Many centers are now starting to see some Phase 2 data (data from 2022 to 9/8/2024) if the provider error logs were signed off. As the data migration continues, please be aware that there will be additional updates coming. Because we have migrated in Registry Phase 2 data, but not the corresponding PIPS records, you will see additional volume impacting your PIPS widgets. For example, the "PIPS Cases pending PI Review" is built to pull in all PTOS Registry records without a PIPS record. Many of the widgets have a 6-month rolling window, but because the PI workflow can be ongoing longer, this is one widget that is not limited to only 6-months. Therefore, you will see an increase in volume hitting this widget during the interim phase until the corresponding PIPS records from Phase 2 are migrated in. If you are already using this widget to drive workflow, you can then filter the patient details by EDA to get to more concurrent records.

PTSF has continued efforts to get additional reports released and will be providing additional details soon regarding two potential options for Cribari style reports to calculate over and under triage rates. These triage reports are still in the testing phase for validation, but PTSF remains committed to seeking and developing creative and timely solutions to assist trauma centers in their PI efforts. The IQVIA team continues to work on additional modifications to the Case Summary PI report, building additional reports such as the Nelson Tool for NSA rates, and Timeliness of Registry Submission and PI Timeliness of PTOS Mortality reports. The PTSF and IQVIA continue to meet frequently to discuss long-term reporting solutions that will better meet the robust reporting requirements.

Statewide Open Forums have now been moved to Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. March’s Statewide Open Forums are scheduled on:

- Thursday, March 6- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 20- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

If you wish to receive the forum calendar invites, please contact a member of the PTSF team. These invites may be forwarded internally as needed; they are open to all PA trauma center staff (accredited and pursuing) who are involved with TraumaHQ.



Trauma Registry and Reports Update

Lyndsey Diehl, MHA, RHIA, CHDA, CSTR

Director of Trauma Registry

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Updated 2025 Trauma Registry Resources

The 2025 PTOS Manual and PTOS Change Document were updated as of 2/26/2025 and posted within the library of TraumaHQ under Registry Resources. Please remember to utilize the most recent PTOS Manual!

TQIP Submission

PTSF staff met with the American College of Surgeons on 1/30/2025 for a discussion regarding the upcoming March 3 TQIP submission. The ACS is understanding and gracious about our current situation and noted that Pennsylvania is not alone in struggles to meet the upcoming submission successfully. The ACS staff assured PTSF that, if PA centers are no more than 2 quarters delayed in submitting the most recent records eligible for a reporting cycle, they would not be excluded from risk-adjusted benchmarking for that reporting cycle. Given this information, PA trauma centers should focus on data from September 9, 2024, through December 31, 2024, for the upcoming TQIP submission. If not all of the data from this period can be submitted, that is acceptable.

Please utilize the [TraumaHQ User Support Request Form](#) to submit any questions or concerns to PTSF staff regarding TQIP Validation Summary Reports. PTSF staff is working hard to address your questions and concerns as quickly as possible. Please note that while PTSF staff is happy to offer assistance to try and resolve any concerns, we are not NTDS or TQIP experts. PA trauma centers can also contact the ACS TQIP staff directly at TQIP@facs.org with any questions or concerns involving specific NTDS and/or TQIP data elements or guidelines.

TraumaHQ Educational Video Series

The TraumaHQ Educational Video Series can be accessed [here](#). Most recently, City/State education and Data Migration educational videos have been posted. Please email Lyndsey for the password to access this education. At this time, over fifty educational videos have been posted within this series. Sort videos by using the button in the upper right-hand corner of the webpage. Sorting by “Last Modified” will bring all of the most recent postings to the top of the list.

IQVIA TraumaHQ Technical Customer Support

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. EST

Phone Number: 1.888.339.9039

Contact by Phone: The call is answered by the next available agent. If all agents are busy, users may leave a message with their name, facility number, phone number, email address, and the eight-digit trauma number (if applicable). The message should include the best time to return the call and a brief description of the issue. An agent will respond to the user's message as soon as possible. If the user calls after hours, an agent will contact the user the following business day.

IQVIA Technical Customer Support Email Address: PTSFTechSupport@iqvia.com

Contact by Email: The email should include the facility number, a contact phone number, the eight-digit trauma number (if applicable), and a brief description of the issue. Users receive an initial automated response of receipt of their email, which creates a ticket. Typical response is one business day.



Application for Survey and Survey Sync Update

Darlene Gondell, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN

Director of Accreditation

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IQVIA's primary area of concentration is a strategic focus on Registry and PIPS completion. Due to this priority, the Application for Survey (AFS) and Survey Sync modules will not be integrated into TraumaHQ in 2025. Instead, centers scheduled for 2025 surveys will utilize a fillable portable document format (PDF) for the AFS, which will be available beginning March 10. Centers should note that all AFS questions were previously provided in the "AFS Questions Handbook," which remains accessible in the TraumaHQ library.

March 10 is also the release date for an updated AFS User's Manual and Survey Guidebook, which will support centers through this transition. Additionally, a specialized document that provides guidance on data extraction from TraumaHQ to complete the AFS is in development and will be available prior to April 30, when centers begin running data for the reporting period.

Survey Monkey will be utilized by the survey team for the medical record review component on survey day. Centers can expect continuity in this area, as the medical record review questions remain largely unchanged from previous years. As in past surveys, centers will receive a copy of the questions in advance to facilitate preparation.

Matt Mowry, Manager of Accreditation, and I will conduct individual meetings with each hospital scheduled for a 2025 survey. These personalized meetings address specific details about the AFS and the survey process. Furthermore, these meetings are components of the PTSF's overall commitment to offer trauma centers support with the new formats and the entire accreditation process.

2025 TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM OCTOBER 23-24, 2025

PTSF is proud to announce the inaugural Joint Trauma Symposium, presented by the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation and the American Trauma Society Pennsylvania Division. This groundbreaking collaboration brings together two leading organizations in trauma care to deliver an exceptional educational experience.

Join distinguished trauma professionals from across Pennsylvania for a two-day conference featuring state-of-the-art presentations on emerging trauma care techniques and research. The newly renovated Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel will host the event, offering valuable networking opportunities with leading experts and peers in the field.

By uniting our expertise and resources, this partnership aims to provide exceptional educational content while maximizing value for all participants. Experience the future of trauma care education through this innovative collaborative approach. Registration will open soon. Stay tuned for details on how to secure your spot at this pioneering event.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Maggie Broadwell, BSN, RN, TCRN, CEN, CPEN

Performance Improvement Manager

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Board Liaison: Raquel M. Forsythe, MD

The DEI Committee will hold the first meeting of 2025 on April 8 at 1:00 p.m. The second meeting is scheduled for September 23. Dr. Raquel Forsythe continues as the Committee Chair, along with Dr. Amy Cohee as the committee as Co-Chair. PTSF remains committed to the DEI initiative devised by the Board of Directors in 2021. PTSF stands with both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) and remains committed to equal access and care for all trauma patients within the Commonwealth, and nationally. As an organization, PTSF strives for inclusion from a diverse group of healthcare providers and administrators who represent our constituency and give voice to the issues of our communities.



Outcomes Committee

Rebecca Geyer, MSN, RN, TCRN

Director of Performance Improvement

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Board Liaison: Denise M. Torres, MD

Raquel Forsythe, Committee Chair and Anthony Martin, Co-Chair continue their committee leadership roles. The Outcomes Committee will meet on September 15, 2025. Much of the workload associated with Outcomes data is on hold for the duration of the software build. Once the committee reconvenes later this year, the work will focus on the review of a new Outcomes data report.



PIPS Committee

Rebecca Geyer, MSN, RN, TCRN

Director of Performance Improvement

rgeyer@ptsf.org

Board Liaison: Rebecca Wilde-Onia, MSN, RN, CCRN, TCRN

The PIPS Committee will meet on April 15, July 15, and then in-person at the at the 2025 Trauma Symposium on October 23. Kim Shoff, Chair and Leda Heidenreich, Co-Chair will once again lead the PIPS Committee. Committee work will focus on the review of aspects of the software built for additional enhancements, and PIPS Manual updates necessitated by the new technology. Additionally, the PIPS Committee will continue with oversight of the PI process, including OFI.



Standards Committee

Darlene Gondell, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN

Director of Accreditation

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Board Liaison: Patrick Kim, MD, FACS

Dr. Patrick Kim is the Chair of the Standards Committee, and Mike Taramelli is the Co-Chair. The next Standards Committee Meeting is June 3, followed by October 23.

The Standards Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes and clarifications to the Standards of Accreditation for all levels of trauma centers.

Standard 1: Commitment

- Updated the language and added criteria to the suggested criteria to be considered for inclusion in the institution's trauma activation criteria at some level. Summary of the update:
 - Miles per hour has been eliminated from the criteria.
 - All mention of a diagnosed injury has been clarified to be a suspected injury.
 - Additions include the need for extrication for entrapped patient in an automobile crash, a child (0-9 years) unrestrained or in an unsecured child safety seat, and suspicion of child abuse.
 - Revised criteria for Falls to a height > 10 feet (all ages), Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact.
 - Revised tourniquet criteria to active bleeding require a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure.
 - Expanded motorcycle crash criteria to Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (for example, motorcycle, ATV, horse, electric scooter, etc.)
- Effective immediately
- Revised the Trauma Activation Criteria reference to the ACS [National Guidelines for the Field Triage of Injured Patients](#).
 - Effective immediately

Standard 13: Nursing

- Updated details related to nursing annual continuing education. Summary of the update:
 - Added the Society of Trauma Nurses' Pediatric Trauma Across the Care Continuum (PTACC) to the list of advanced trauma courses that can be included in the maximum of 12 continuing education hours in a 3-year period.

- In the list of trauma advanced certifications that do not require maintaining continuing education logs, updated the medical surgical certification credential to MEDSURG-BC, and added Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN).
- Effective immediately

The revised Standards of Accreditation are posted on the PTSF web site and dated 3/1/2025. Please contact Darlene Gondell at dgondell@ptsf.org with any questions or comments. Please submit requests for Standards Committee topic discussion (for example, suggested new standard or clarification of current standard) via this [form](#). The Standards Committee will meet next on June 3. Submissions prior to May 14 can be included in the meeting agenda.



Trauma Injury Prevention Committee

Matthew Mowry, MSN, RN, TCRN, CEN, NE-BC

Manager of Accreditation

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Board Liaison: R. Daniel Bledsoe, MD, MBA

The Injury Prevention Committee held its first meeting in February. During this session, leadership transitioned from longtime Chair Deb Erdman to the new Chair, Lisa Eckenrode, with Sunny Goodyear as Co-Chair. The committee aims to identify and provide evidence-based injury prevention curriculum to address the leading trauma mechanisms faced by most trauma centers today. Additionally, the committee will address injury prevention challenges through dedicated workgroups focused on falls, gun violence, and motor vehicle crashes. Funding is currently available for ATSPA Institutional Members to obtain Master Trainer certification for the A Matter of Balance Fall Prevention Program. If interested, contact Kimberly Nunemaker at knunemaker@atspa.org. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for May 27.



Trauma Registry Committee

Gabrielle Wenger, RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR

Trauma Registry Specialist

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Board Liaison: Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN

Debbie Chappel will remain as Trauma Registry Committee Chair as the committee continues recruitment efforts for the Co-Chair role. The Trauma Registry Committee develops, implements, and continuously monitors the trauma registry database requests for changes to the PTOS dataset and makes appropriate recommendations to the PTSF Board of Directors. The committee will meet four times in 2025: April 17, August 14, June 1, and November 20.



Trauma Research Committee

Stephanie Radzevick, CPC

Trauma Data Analyst

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Board Liaison: Jeffrey M. Kuklinski, DO, MBE, CMTE

Elinore Kaufman will remain as the Trauma Research Committee Chair and the committee welcomes Joshua Brown as Co-Chair. The Trauma Research Committee supports the advancement of trauma research in Pennsylvania and acts as an advisory group to the PTSF Board of Directors in recommending allocation of funds in support of that goal. The committee will meet three times in 2025: March 4, August 5, and October 23 at the 2025 Trauma Symposium.

PTSF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The PTSF is seeking an exceptional registered nurse to join our team as Manager of Accreditation. This role offers a unique opportunity to influence trauma care across Pennsylvania and contribute to our national leadership in trauma systems development. Please visit the [PTSF website](#) for additional information about this exciting role and check back often for additional employment opportunities.

EDUCATION

New TRAUMA Program Nurse Leader Orientation

Registration is open for the next New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (virtual) New nurse leaders are invited to join PTSF staff for the orientation, which is facilitated by a variety of PTSF staff members. Topics include Understanding the PTSF, Trauma Organizations & Resources, Trauma Registry, Trauma Performance Improvement, Accreditation and Survey Overview, Trauma Program Resources, and “Hot Topics in Trauma.” The primary audience includes new Trauma Program Coordinators/Managers, Trauma Program Directors, Performance Improvement Coordinators, Nurse Registrars, Educators, and other trauma program nurse leaders from both pursuing and accredited centers. — [REGISTER HERE](#) —

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Change Notification to PTSF, Directory, and Email Distribution

A trauma center representative must communicate changes in trauma program leadership, which will last more than 30 days, within 48 hours of the change or in advance, if possible, for the following roles – Trauma Program Medical Director, Trauma Program Manager, Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator, and Trauma Registry Staff. A trauma center representative must communicate changes in hospital leadership related to the trauma program (Including: CEO, Hospital Administrator Trauma Center Contact) within 30 days. Please consult [Accreditation Policy AC-128 Notification Regarding Changes in Trauma Center Operations](#) for additional guidance on changes in trauma program leadership/staff.

Trauma center representatives may submit staff changes via the [Accredited and Pursuing Trauma Center Staff Change Notification Form](#) available on the [PTSF Website](#). PTSF maintains a directory and various email groups for accredited trauma centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation. Trauma center use of the [Accredited and Pursuing Trauma Center Staff Change Notification Form](#) facilitates accurate directory information and email groups. The PTSF updates the directory/email groups continuously and distributes the directory twice each year to all trauma program managers, typically in January and July, or upon request.

Communications to PTSF

PTSF accepts payments via mail:

Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation

275 Cumberland Parkway, #234

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Please email all other communications to the appropriate PTSF staff member, in lieu of paper mail.