

PTSF STAFF NEWS

A Message from the President



Amy Kempinski,
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As we move through the peak of summer 2025, trauma centers across Pennsylvania are experiencing the predictable yet challenging surge in patient volumes that comes with this season. From motorcycle accidents on our scenic rural roads to water-related incidents at our lakes and rivers, from increased pedestrian injuries in our bustling cities to the inevitable uptick in violence that warmer weather unfortunately brings, trauma professionals are once again demonstrating their unwavering commitment to saving lives when every second counts.

As we navigate these busy summer months, we are also preparing for a critical milestone in our foundation's future. On September 25, 2025, we will convene our annual strategic planning session, bringing together key stakeholders from across Pennsylvania. This is not just another meeting—it is our opportunity to chart the course for trauma care in the Commonwealth.

The strength of Pennsylvania's trauma system has always been its collaborative spirit. As we prepare for September 25th, I encourage every member of our trauma community to engage with this process. Share your insights, your challenges, and your innovative solutions. In the coming weeks, every PTSF committee and partnering organization will complete interviews and think-tank strategic planning mini sessions, offering multiple opportunities to provide input. We are committed to making this a truly inclusive process that reflects the diversity and expertise of our entire trauma community.

Having served trauma fields for over three decades, I have witnessed remarkable transformations in how we approach trauma care. What has not changed is the fundamental mission that drives us all: being ready when someone's worst day becomes our most important opportunity to make a difference.

This summer's challenges remind us why our work matters so profoundly. Every successful resuscitation, every life saved, every family that gets to stay whole—these outcomes depend on the trauma system we have built together and continue to strengthen.

As we look toward September 25th and beyond, I am confident that Pennsylvania's trauma community will continue to lead by example, innovate under pressure, and never lose sight of the patients and families who depend on us.

Stay safe, stay committed, and thank you for all you do.

Welcome New Manager of Accreditation, Jen Lau



Jen Lau, MSN, RN, CNML, CPEN, joined the PTSF in July 2025 and brings over 17 years of trauma expertise to her role as Manager of Accreditation. As part of the PTSF Accreditation team, Jen supports trauma centers in achieving and maintaining trauma center accreditation through education and participation in site surveys. Prior to joining the PTSF, Jen served as Trauma Program Manager at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, a Level I Trauma Center, and has held leadership roles in emergency nursing, trauma, and pediatrics. She has led impactful initiatives such as developing partnerships with EMS agencies and rural hospitals to strengthen trauma care through outreach education, and founding a multidisciplinary firearm violence prevention program. Jen earned a master's degree in nursing administration from Walden University and undergraduate degrees from Penn State University. She can be reached at jlau@ptsf.org.

ACS Committee on Trauma Launches "Where Seconds Matter" Congressional Campaign

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) is proud to announce the launch of an ambitious new advocacy initiative: "Where Seconds Matter" – a national campaign designed to strengthen relationships between trauma surgeons and members of Congress while highlighting the critical importance of trauma care systems across the United States.

This groundbreaking initiative aims to bring at least one member of Congress (House or Senate) to visit a trauma center in every state during the August recess. The campaign operates on a three-tiered approach that is state-driven, regionally coordinated, and nationally supported, ensuring comprehensive coverage and maximum impact.

The "Where Seconds Matter" campaign focuses on four primary goals:

- **Strengthening Relationships:** Establishing long-term connections between trauma surgeons and Congressional representatives to foster ongoing collaboration and understanding.
- **Educating Policymakers:** Providing members of Congress with firsthand exposure to trauma care challenges and opportunities, allowing them to witness the life-saving work happening in their districts.
- **Advocating for Policy:** Discussing critical legislative priorities that support trauma care, including funding initiatives, workforce development, injury prevention programs, and emergency preparedness measures.
- **Promoting Public Awareness:** Leveraging media and social platforms to highlight the vital role of trauma systems in saving lives and protecting communities.

Trauma centers interested in hosting Congressional visits can participate by scanning the QR code provided in campaign materials or contacting the ACS Committee on Trauma. The campaign provides comprehensive support including:

- Step-by-step checklists for organizing visits
- Policy talking points and one-pagers
- Media and communications toolkits
- Centralized tracking and reporting systems

For more information about participating in the "Where Seconds Matter" campaign, contact the ACS Committee on Trauma at COT@FACS.org or visit the campaign signup portal.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES



Trauma Registry Update

Lyndsey Diehl, MHA, RHIA, CHDA, CSTR

Director of Trauma Registry

ldiehl@ptsf.org

September 2025 TQIP Submission

The September 2025 TQIP submission window is now open! The deadline to submit data from 1/1/2023 - 6/30/2025 is **September 2, 2025**. Please refer to the "TQIP Submission Recommendations" educational video within the TraumaHQ Vimeo TraumaHQ series for further details and instructions. PTSF staff will continue to communicate essential information that may impact TQIP submission throughout the submission window.

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. While PTSF staff is happy to offer assistance to try and resolve any concerns, we are not NTDS or TQIP experts. PA TQIP participating 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.

Registry Timeliness of Submission

While TR-110 – Timeliness of Submission to the Central Site has not been formally waived by the PTSF Board of Directors, please know that PTSF Staff and the PTSF Board of Directors remain sensitive to your concerns. We understand the challenges related to the intensity of the software transition and recognize that your ability to abstract trauma registry data timely and efficiently has been impacted. However, the PTSF Board of Directors encourages trauma programs to try and maintain timeliness of submission to the central site for the trauma registry to the best of your ability.

The impact of the software transition and its many components on TR-110: Timeliness of Submission to the Central Site has been monitored by PTSF staff throughout the first half of 2025. Users can now generate and review the Timeliness of Submission report within TraumaHQ under operational reports to help in the evaluation of submission timeliness at your center. This data is also guiding the PTSF Board of Directors in any future decision making related to TR-110. At the July 2025 PTSF Board of Directors meeting, the board agreed to continue evaluating registry timeliness of submission through the remainder of 2025. Note, a precedent has been set that a significant issue related to TR-110 will not be issued if there is any evidence that software/technical issues prevented a trauma center from successfully

meeting the requirements of TR-110. PTSF registry staff has contacted centers with 6 months or more of non-compliance to simply offer support and education. If your center is continuing to struggle with registry timeliness of submission, please contact Lyndsey (ldiehl@ptsf.org) to discuss further.

We know that you are extremely dedicated to submitting trauma registry data timely, and we appreciate your continued efforts to do so amid this unprecedented software transition. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to high quality, timely trauma registry data!

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.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Policy and Procedure Committee

Amy Oliveros

Administrative Assistant

aoliveros@ptsf.org

Committee Chair: Jo Ann Miller, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN, TCRN

The Policy and Procedure Committee and the PTSF Board of Directors voted to modify the following policies:

AC 140 Level I, II and III Trauma Center Accreditation Extension: As a reflection of the complex TQIP submission in TraumaHQ, and out of an abundance of caution on the implications, the policy was amended to provide the PTSF Board the authority to define the date or range for the required TQIP report component of the application. For example, the Board may determine that the spring or fall TQIP report may be utilized. Trauma programs who are eligible for the policy will be notified by the PTSF.

BD 109 Non-Board Committee Membership – This policy was updated to include that committee members may not disclose committee participation in presentations, publications or relevant professional work without the written consent of the PTSF President.



Standards Committee

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

Director of Accreditation

dgondell@ptsf.org

Board Liaison/Committee Chair: Patrick Kim, MD, FACS

Committee Co-Chair: Mike Taramelli

The Standards Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes and clarifications to the Standards of Accreditation.

Standard 5. Registry

Adult Level I, II & III; Pediatric Level I & II

- Added the timeframe of within six months of position appointment for when an ICD course (version in use) must be completed by a Registrar.
 - Expected compliance by 6.1.26
- Changed the expected compliance date for Level I-III centers to have one registrar with a current certification as a Certified Abbreviated Injury Scale Specialist (CAISS) standard to 6.1.27.

Standard 8. Injury Prevention, Public Education & Outreach

Adult Level IV

- Revised the SBIRT Standard to match the Level I-III Standard. Summary of the update:
- Require substance misuse screenings and brief interventions for all PTOS admissions over 12 years of age, removing a minimum length of admission.
- The screening methods are at the discretion of the individual trauma center but must include a validated tool or blood/urine laboratory testing.
- The brief intervention must be completed by appropriately trained staff as determined and credentialed by the institution (could include nurses, social workers, etc.) and must occur prior to patient discharge.
- Included the reference Best Practice Guidelines Screening and Intervention for Mental Health Disorders and Substance Use and Misuse in the Acute Trauma Patient.
 - Expected compliance by 6.1.26

Standard 9: Research

Adult Level I

- Clarified that of four required extramural (external audience) educational presentations, one must be by a trauma program physician faculty member whereas three can be by a physician, advanced practitioner, nurse or clinical pharmacist.
 - Effective immediately

Standard 10: Physicians

Adult Level IV

- Added requirement for the medical service physicians who are admitting injured patients to have evidence of four hours of annual trauma-related continuing education. In lieu of CME, demonstration of completion of the trauma program internal educational program (IEP) is acceptable.
 - Expected compliance by 1.1.27

The revised Standards of Accreditation are posted on the PTSF web site and dated 8/15/2025. 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 October 23rd. Submissions prior to October 9th can be included in the meeting agenda.



Trauma Registry Committee

Gabrielle Wenger, RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR

Trauma Registry Specialist

gwenger@ptsf.org

Board Liaison/Committee Chair: Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN

Committee Co-Chair: Tracy Vazquez

The Board approved changes to elements for the January 1, 2026 annual update:

- Retire **Total Prehospital Units of Blood Hung** and create two required elements, **Total Units of Whole Blood Hung** and **Total Units of PRBC Hung** to report both whole blood and PRBC.
 - Dr. Bledsoe asked about adding plasma units for reporting. He noted that EMS may begin administering plasma but not yet finalized. This will go to Registry committee in 2026 with consideration to add for 2027.
 - There was question regarding the term “Hung”. This term is used as documentation from EMS will show, for example, 1 unit was hung and allow for consistent abstraction.
- Add two optional elements to capture prehospital administration of TXA. **Was the patient administered TXA prior to arrival?** and **TXA Date/Time** will be added to Prehospital, Referring Facility, and Interhospital sections.
- Add two optional elements to capture administration of TXA after arrival at the reporting hospital. **Was the patient administered TXA in the reporting hospital?** and TXA Date/Time field will be added to the Clinical Data section.
- Add the menu option “**Cancelled Activation/Consult**” to the Upgrade/Downgrade **Level of Alert** field. The current menu options only allow capturing a Downgrade from one level to another, or to a trauma consult. This would allow capture of Downgrade in event of an activation cancelled prior to trauma involvement.
- Recommendation to retire five optional elements:
 - **WAS OPERATING ROOM AVAILABLE WHEN PATIENT READY TO TRANSPORT FROM ED TO OR?**
 - **WAS ATTENDING SURGEON PRESENT WHEN THE PATIENT ARRIVED IN THE OR?**
 - **IF NO, SPECIFY ARRIVAL TIME**
 - **WAS THERE DOCUMENTATION THAT THE ATTENDING ANESTHESIOLOGIST WAS IMMEDIATELY PRESENT IN THE OR?**
 - **IF NO, SPECIFY ARRIVAL TIME**
- Retire the COVID-19 Results Status element.

The next Trauma Registry Committee meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2025.

EDUCATION

2025 TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 23-24, 2025

Presented by: Pennsylvania
TRAUMA
SYSTEMS
Foundation



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2025 TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM OCTOBER 23-24, 2025

PTSF is looking forward to 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.

For more information, including registration, visit our [event website](#).

New TRAUMA Program Nurse Leader Orientation

Registration is open for the next New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation on August 19, 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 —](#)

COMMUNICATION REMINDER

Staff Change Notification to PTSF - Directory, Email Distribution, and TraumaHQ

It is important to notify the PTSF of changes related to hospital and trauma program leadership. 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. Additionally, 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 are asked to 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. 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.

Please note, this change request **does not correlate** to changes in TraumaHQ access. To request new access, to update a current login, or to delete user access to TraumaHQ, please complete the [TraumaHQ User Request Form](#).



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.

The next PTSF Board Meeting is September 25, 2025.



The PTSF Office will be closed on Monday, September 1st in observance of the Labor Day holiday,