

BOARD UPDATES

A Joint Message from the PTSF Board of Directors and the PTSF President



Henry A. Boateng, MD
PTSF Board Chair



Amy Kempinski,
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PTSF President
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The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Board of Directors convened September 25, 2025, for a comprehensive strategic planning session that exemplified the collaborative spirit and expertise that defines our trauma community. The strategic planning process demonstrated the remarkable depth of engagement within Pennsylvania's trauma system. Through an extensive outreach effort, expertly guided by consultant Patrick Ball from CBY Professional Services, input was gathered from over one hundred participants and a diverse array of stakeholders representing every facet of trauma delivery across the Commonwealth.

A critical component of the session involved reviewing and reaffirming PTSF's core organizational elements including the mission, vision, values and value proposition. These foundational elements continue to guide our work and reflect the unwavering commitment of Pennsylvania's trauma community to saving lives and improving outcomes for injured patients.

The strategic planning session focused on developing a comprehensive framework that will guide PTSF's initiatives and priorities over the coming years. The process methodology included a SWOT analysis examining organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, which led to robust discussions about future strategic directions.

The 2026-2028 strategic plan, including detailed strategic imperatives, goals, and objectives, will be released later this year following additional analysis and refinement of the input gathered during this extensive consultation process.

The overwhelming participation and engagement demonstrated throughout this strategic planning process reflects the shared commitment of Pennsylvania's trauma care community to continuous improvement and excellence in patient care. The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation extends its gratitude to all participants who contributed their time, expertise, and insights to this important activity. Your dedication to advancing trauma care in Pennsylvania makes our shared mission possible.

PTSF BOARD AND TRAUMA CENTER NEWS

Finance Committee



Board Committee Chair:
Erin Pica, MHA,
PTSF Secretary/Treasurer



Staff Liaison: Dor Adams
Finance Specialist
dadams@ptsf.org

2026 PTSF FEE SCHEDULE

The fee structure for accredited trauma centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation will increase by five percent in 2027, according to PTSF Board approval at the September 2025 board meeting. This increase applies to all fees, including annual participation, application for survey, accreditation visits, panel surveys, consultative visits, education, and software initiation fees.

The 2026 and 2027 Fee Schedules are posted to the PTSF website in the Resources section, along with a detailed Education Offering document.

If you have any questions regarding fees or invoicing, please contact Dor Adams, Finance Specialist, at dadams@ptsf.org.

Policy and Procedure Committee



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



Staff Liaison: Amy Oliveros
Administrative Assistant
aoliveros@ptsf.org

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

TR-113 Requesting PTOS Data from the Central Site: This new policy reflects the PTSF's historical process on PTOS data request management, data review requirements, approval and data retention plans. Under the direction of PTSF's legal counsel, the process and the PTOS Data Application and Agreement were updated to reflect the new Department of Justice's federal regulations related to information sharing guidelines, notably country of origin restrictions.

BD-120 Board Officer and Member Selection: This new policy reflects the PTSF's historical process, updated board position descriptions and updated PTSF bylaws. It formally addresses the nominating and selection process for board officers and partnering organizations.

AC-140: Level I, II & III Trauma Center Accreditation Extension

This policy outlines the process and requirements for trauma centers seeking a one-year accreditation certificate extension. As part of this policy, the Board of Directors will determine which TQIP reports are acceptable for submission. For centers completing a 2026 AFS or one-year extension application, the Board will allow centers to submit either the Spring 2025 or Fall 2025 TQIP report. Please contact the Accreditation team with any questions or concerns.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES



Software Transition and PIPS Update

Rebecca Geyer, MSN, RN, TCRN

Director of Performance Improvement

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System Updates & PIPS Migration Progress

IQVIA continues to expand the scope of each software release, delivering more enhancements with every update. Two releases remain on the calendar for 2025: the first at the end of October and the second in December.

Development Focus Shifts to PIPS

Recent development efforts have centered on completing the Registry software build and advancing the PIPS platform. With most remaining Registry items being cosmetic or lower-priority updates, the team is now directing more resources toward PIPS functionality improvements—a change we know many of you have been waiting for.

Phase 2 PIPS Data Migration Underway

We're making significant progress on the Phase 2 PIPS data migration. A special thank you to the centers and individuals who participated in our UAT site testing. Your partnership was invaluable in identifying critical issues, including formatting problems in large free text fields. IQVIA has since implemented fixes to preserve text formatting in these fields.

The hours you invested in testing, confirming, and providing feedback have helped us address many potential issues before the larger migration rollout. Your contribution will directly benefit the entire network.

What's Next

As we enter the major Phase 2 PIPS migration phase, we'll be sharing detailed guidance on upcoming steps. Here is a summary, but additional information and educational videos will be provided.

1. Phase 2 PIPS data migrated into UAT to produce error and warning logs for each site (*this step is currently occurring*)
2. PTSF to send each site their specific error/warning logs
3. Each trauma center updates PIPS providers and PIPS meeting names based on error logs

4. Each center to review list of records that have critical errors and make updates if needed
5. Each center to indicate migration into PROD can occur
6. IQVIA to migrate Phase 2 PIPS data into PROD
7. Each center makes additional manual updates to remaining errors on migration logs, if needed



Trauma Registry Update

Lyndsey Diehl, MHA, RHIA, CHDA, CSTR

Director of Trauma Registry

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2025 Fall TQIP Benchmark Reports – TWO ISSUES – IMPORTANT

Several PA TQIP participating centers, and the PA TQIP Collaborative recently received incomplete Fall 2025 benchmark reports. If your facility was affected, you should have received direct communication from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). For complete details about this issue, please review the email sent from the PTSF to trauma programs on September 17th. Effected centers must resubmit data for the Spring 2026 TQIP report. If you have questions or have not received the original communication, please contact Lyndsey Diehl, Director of Trauma Registry.

Additionally, a data mapping issue was identified related to transfer in patients.

What Happened

For legacy patients (arrivals through 9/8/2024) and remaining 2024 trauma records (arrivals 9/9/2024–12/31/2024), TraumaHQ utilizes the Interhospital Transport (interhospprov) field on the Referring Facility tab of the trauma registry form to map to the NTDS's Inter-Facility Transfer element.

Interhospital Transport Data

Interhospital Transport

Dispatch (Interhospital)

Interhospital - Dispatch Time - Unknown

MM/DD/YYYY HH:MM

MM / DD / YYYY HH : MM

☐

When this field contains any value other than "not known/not recorded," the system maps "Yes" to Inter-Facility Transfer in the XML file. However, blank, null, or unknown values are mapped as "not known/not recorded" (unknown) in the TQIP submission—resulting in unexpectedly high rates of unknown transfer status.

Note, 2025 records are not impacted as the NTDS Inter-Facility Transfer field was added directly on the trauma registry form for 2025 admissions. Therefore, the mapping is not applicable for 2025 records.

The Solution

IQVIA is correcting the mapping to use the "Is this a transfer patient?" field instead, which will accurately capture transfer status for the NTDS Inter-Facility Transfer element.

Referring Facility

*NOTE : * next to a field name indicates NTDS data element*

Referring Facility

Is this a transfer patient?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Is there data / information available from
outside facility

☐ Yes ☐ No

Timeline: The correction will be included in the October software release. If any issues arise, a patch will be deployed before the December 2nd TQIP submission deadline.

To address both issues, the following data must be resubmitted to TQIP with the December TQIP submission after the transfer patient mapping correction is made:

- 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023 (if applicable)
- If you have never submitted 2023 data to TQIP out of TraumaHQ, you do NOT need to resubmit data from this timeframe.
- 1/1/2024 – 9/8/2024
- 9/9/2024 – 12/31/2024
- 1/1/2025 – 3/31/2025

While the Fall 2025 report cannot be corrected, this issue will be resolved in the Spring 2026 TQIP benchmark report once the software correction is implemented and data is resubmitted.

It is critical that you wait to resubmit data to TQIP after the software correction is applied!

We understand the frustration this issue has caused and sincerely apologize on behalf of IQVIA for the impact on your benchmark reports.

What We're Doing

The PTSF Board discussed this issue and identified opportunities for improvement at the September 2025 board meeting. Recognizing the ongoing challenges of the software transition, the Board approved updates to Policy AC-140 to better support PA trauma centers during this period. See Policy and Procedure Committee for additional details.

PTSF staff remains dedicated to helping you navigate TQIP submissions and ensuring data accuracy. While we don't have direct visibility into TQIP data processing, we are actively collaborating with ACS and IQVIA to address issues as they arise and prevent future problems.

Please contact PTSF registry staff with any questions or concerns. We're committed to working alongside you, ACS, and IQVIA to ensure your TraumaHQ data is accurate and complete for TQIP submissions.

2026 Annual Updates

The 2026 NTDS Data Dictionary has been released by the American College of Surgeons (ACS)! Click [here](#) to access.

The 2026 PTOS Manual will be distributed mid-December via TraumaHQ. Additional registry resources (change document, facility lists, etc.) will also be updated and distributed via TraumaHQ mid-December.

A handout listing all 2026 updates has been posted for your review in TraumaHQ under Registry Resources within the Library. Further information and education regarding 2026 changes will be provided soon. This includes an educational session at the upcoming Trauma Symposium that will review 2026 updates at a glance.

TraumaHQ is anticipated to be updated with 2026 changes in mid-December. However, these changes will not be visible to users until records with January 1, 2026 arrivals are created. Some additional 2026 updates are anticipated with a January 2026 software release. Further information and education regarding upcoming software releases will be provided.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE



Application for Survey Update

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

Director of Accreditation

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The 2026 Application for Survey (AFS) is in pdf format and is currently available in TraumaHQ in the Resource Library. There are two versions: one for Level I-III centers and one for Level IV centers. Centers with a 2026 survey will download the appropriate AFS to their computer/system folder to complete. Prior to the AFS due date, PTSF staff will provide centers with access to PTSF SharePoint folders for upload of the completed AFS.



**The PTSF office will be closed on Tuesday
November 11th in observation of Veteran's Day**

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Outcomes Committee

Rebecca Geyer, MSN, RN, TCRN

Director of Performance Improvement

rgeyer@ptsf.org

Board Liaison: Denise M. Torres, MD

The Outcomes Committee met on September 15, 2025 and while the committee is generally still on hold until more Outcomes-related data is readily available through TraumaHQ, the committee enjoyed discussing future goals for 2026. As IQVIA begins to work on building an Outcomes Data Report, this committee will help to review and modify content as needed. Additionally, this committee discussed two workgroups that are anticipated to start in 2026: one to review trauma transfers across the state and then a second group to continue working on long-term outcomes for trauma patients discharged out to rehab centers.



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 Trauma Registry Committee last met August 14, 2025, and reviewed recommendations for 2026 annual updates. The Board of Directors approved the changes listed below for the 2026 PTOS data set. These changes will go into effect, beginning with patients with hospital arrival of January 1, 2026.

- Require reporting of remote consult for Psychiatry providers that have only remote response.
- Update GCS-40 elements to include scoring for pediatric patients ≤5 years.
- Add "Legal Sex" as a required element.
- Change count of ICU/Vent/Stepdown days and Hospital LOS. Count would now include each day, including partial days.
- Remove prehospital CPR from the pre-existing conditions and continue to record as a separate element in the Prehospital section. It is currently reported as a pre-existing condition for PTOS, but it is captured in prehospital for NTDS.
- Redesign the Prehospital tab. The repeat groups will continue to capture provider specific information (i.e Unit number, Provider level, times, etc.). Vital signs would be taken out of the repeat groups. One set of vital signs would be reported for Scene, based on earliest documented vital signs. If there is a Transport provider, then Transport vital signs would open and be reported based on first documented vital signs that are at/after leave scene time.
- Update language in definition of Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy to match NTDS changes.
- Update language in definition of Protective Devices to match NTDS changes.

- Update language in definition of Child Specific Restraint to match NTDS changes. The options are not new, just clarification on when to use infant
- Update definition of Current Smoker to match NTDS changes. This definition previously included only cigarettes, excluding cigars, pipes, and all smokeless tobacco including e-cigarettes and vapes.
- Retire the PTOS pre-existing condition Vaping and E-Cigarette Use.
- Update definition of Functionally Dependent Health Status to match NTDS changes.
- Update language in definition of Peripheral Arterial Disease to match NTDS changes.
- Update the language in definition of Ventilator Dependence to match NTDS changes.
- Update the reference for Deep Surgical Site Infection to match NTDS change.
- Retire hospital event Unplanned Visit to the Operating Room.
- Add hospital event Unplanned Return to the Operating Room.
- Add Transfer Facility Records as an abstraction source in the following elements: Midline Shift, Antibiotic Therapy, Antibiotic Therapy Date/Time, Pre-hospital Cardiac Arrest, Advance Directive Limiting Care.
- Combine the reporting of “Others Called to ED” and “Hospital Consults”. This would create one repeat group in which providers are entered, with a new element to indicate if the provider was called in ED or a hospital consult. We are working with IQVIA to determine impact of combining the two groups on reporting and software functionality. If this is not feasible, the groups will remain separate, but the “Other Called to ED” menu options will be expanded to include all providers.

Non-Board Committee Nominations for 2026

Submission of interested/qualified staff from hospitals for participation with PTSF Committees is performed annually. Trauma Program Managers must provide the names, titles, email addresses, and committees of interest on behalf of the trauma program. PTSF Committee Liaisons emailed any committee member who will rotate off of a committee due to term limits. Deadline for submission is October 31, 2025, to AOLiveros@ptsf.org.

The 2026 Committees are:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Outcomes
- Performance Improvement and Patient Safety (PIPS)
- Standards of Accreditation
- Trauma Injury Prevention
 - Trauma Program Managers are encouraged to nominate staff in trauma injury prevention roles. This committee is open to accredited trauma centers and non-accredited hospitals.
- Trauma Registry
- Trauma Research

After submission, the PTSF Staff Committee Liaisons will work with Committee Chairs to select the committee compositions for 2026. Committee membership is contingent upon consideration of member locale, Trauma Center Level (I-IV), and nominee skill set. Continuation of membership is based on active participation in the past and committee term limits. The PTSF's goal is to ensure that all trauma centers are represented by some means. The PTSF will publish the 2026 PTSF Non-Board Committee Roster in December 2025, pending Board approval.

Please refer to [Policy BD 109 Non-Board Committee Membership](#) for additional information.

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.

EDUCATION

Registration and Hotel Block Now Closed for the Joint Trauma Symposium!

Registration and the hotel block for the inaugural Joint Trauma Symposium are now closed. We're excited to welcome all registered attendees to this groundbreaking event, presented by the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) and the American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA).

To enhance your experience, we're introducing a new event app that will serve as your go-to resource for everything related to the symposium — including the full agenda, speaker details, hotel and area information, and more. Watch your email for instructions from Knowledge Connex on how to download and access the app before the event.

Join trauma professionals from across the state for a two-day educational experience at the newly renovated Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel. Attendees will benefit from state-of-the-art presentations on the latest in trauma care techniques and research, plus valuable networking with peers and experts in the field.

This unique collaboration between PTSF and ATSPA brings together expertise and resources to deliver top-tier educational content and an innovative approach to trauma education.

For more information, visit our [event website](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

New TRAUMA Program Nurse Leader Orientation

The next spring orientation will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026 from 10 am to 2 pm – 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. More information to follow in the New Year.

COMMUNICATIONS

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.

A Friendly Reminder About PTSF Staff Communication

We've noticed that some of our valued colleagues have been reaching out to team members via personal text messages, particularly outside of business hours. While we truly appreciate your engagement and the relationships you've built with our staff, we'd like to gently redirect these communications to help maintain healthy work-life boundaries for our team.

For the most efficient service and to ensure your message reaches the right person promptly, please use:

- Email for non-urgent matters
- Our main phone directory during business hours is: 717-697-5512 or individual direct dial phone numbers are available in the PTSF directory.

We certainly recognize that emergency situations may arise, and we understand that a text message might be necessary in rare circumstances. However, for routine communications, using our official channels helps us serve you better while respecting our employees' personal time.

Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership. We're always here to help during business hours and look forward to assisting you through our official channels.



PTSF TraumaHQ Customer Support

Please continue submitting TraumaHQ questions or concerns to PTSF staff by completing the [TraumaHQ Support Request Form](#) on the [PTSF website](#) or by emailing TraumaHQ@ptsf.org.

Updates to existing TraumaHQ users or requests for new TraumaHQ users should be made by completing and submitting the [TraumaHQ User Request Form](#) on the [PTSF website](#).

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.

The next PTSF Board Meeting is December 11 & 12, 2025.