

Purpose: The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Clinical Excellence Award recognizes outstanding clinical performance and innovation in the care of injured trauma patients across Pennsylvania. This award celebrates individuals, teams, hospitals, and programs that demonstrate exceptional commitment to excellence in trauma care across the continuum, from prehospital response through rehabilitation.

Objectives

The Clinical Excellence Award seeks to:

- Recognize exceptional clinical care and innovation in trauma patient management
- Engage clinicians across the full spectrum of trauma care
- Promote best practices and evidence-based approaches to trauma care throughout Pennsylvania
- Foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among trauma care professionals
- Highlight the critical contributions of all members of the trauma care team

1. Nominees: The following are eligible for nomination:

- a. Individual clinicians
- b. Clinical teams or departments
- c. Hospitals or healthcare facilities
- d. Programs or initiatives focused on trauma care improvement
- e. Prehospital agencies or emergency medical services organizations

2. Nominators: Any individual or organization may submit a nomination. This includes, but is not limited to, trauma center staff, hospital administrators, patients and families, prehospital providers, referring facilities, and community members.

3. Nomination Criteria: Nominations should demonstrate clinical excellence through one or more of the following:

- a. Outstanding patient care outcomes and quality improvement initiatives
- b. Innovation in clinical practice, protocols, or care delivery models
- c. Exceptional collaboration across disciplines or care settings
- d. Leadership in advancing trauma care best practices
- e. Significant contributions to patient safety and risk reduction
- f. Evidence-based practice implementation and research translation
- g. Measurable improvements in clinical processes or patient outcomes
- h. Commitment to education, mentorship, and professional development in trauma care

4. Nomination Process

- a. Submission Requirements: Complete nominations must include:
 - i. Nominee name and contact information (individual, team, or organization)

- ii. Nominator name and contact information
- iii. Detailed narrative describing the clinical excellence demonstrated. Protected health information (PHI) should be excluded (maximum 1,000 words)
- iv. Supporting documentation, which may include outcome data, quality metrics, testimonials, or other evidence of excellence
- v. Specific examples or case studies illustrating the nominee's contributions

- b. Submission Deadline: All nominations must be submitted by August 1 of each year. Late submissions will not be considered.
- c. Submission Method: Nominations should be submitted electronically to PTSF via the designated method as announced annually.

5. Selection Process

- a. Review Committee: The PTSF Executive Board shall serve as the review committee for the Clinical Excellence Award.
 - i. Conflicts of Interest will be applied as indicated.
- b. Redaction and Confidentiality: All nominations will be redacted to remove identifying information about the nominee prior to Executive Board review. This ensures an objective evaluation based solely on the merits of the clinical excellence demonstrated.

6. Evaluation Criteria: The Executive Board will evaluate nominations based on:

- a. Quality and significance of clinical contributions
- b. Evidence of measurable impact on patient care or outcomes
- c. Innovation and creativity in approach
- d. Sustainability and potential for replication
- e. Alignment with PTSF's mission to improve trauma care statewide

7. Selection Timeline: The Executive Board will review nominations and select the award recipient(s) at their regularly scheduled meeting following the August 1 submission deadline. The decision will be finalized no later than September 30 to allow adequate time for planning recognition activities.

8. Award Recognition: The award recipient(s) will be announced and formally recognized at the PTSF Trauma Symposium.

- a. Recognition Components: Award recognition may include:
 - i. Formal presentation at the PTSF Trauma Symposium
 - ii. Award momentum such as plaque, certificate or challenge coin, to be determined

- iii. Features on PTSF website and social media
 - iv. Opportunity to present or share best practices at PTSF-sponsored events
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Original Date: 02/26/2026

Review Date:

Revise Date:

Amy Kempinski, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN — President