

BOARD UPDATES

A Message from the PTSF Board of Directors Chair & President

As we reach the midpoint of 2026, we are pleased to share that the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation continues to make meaningful progress on the priorities set forth in our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan. July also holds special significance for our organization, as we mark forty-one years since PTSF's founding on July 3, 1985 — a legacy of service to Pennsylvania's trauma system that continues to guide our work today.

Our TraumaHQ data platform remains a central focus, and we are proud of the steady progress the team and our IQVIA partners have made in advancing this critical infrastructure. In parallel, PTSF has taken several important steps forward: We are launching the Pennsylvania Disaster Trauma Response Workgroup, and we are increasing awareness of PTSF initiatives through social media outreach, market branding, and our "Trauma by the Numbers" feature published on the PTSF website.

Looking ahead, planning is well underway for the 2026 Trauma Symposium, which will take place October 22–23 in Harrisburg. We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us for what promises to be an outstanding educational event.

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to our mission.



Deborah Chappel,
MSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC
PTSF Board Chair



Amy Kempinski,
MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN
PTSF President
akempinski@ptsf.org



Farewell and Thank you - Dr Richard Neff

With gratitude and best wishes, we say goodbye to Dr. Richard Neff, who is stepping down from the PTSF Board of Directors to pursue other professional opportunities. Dr. Neff represented the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) on the Board, having joined in 2024. During his tenure, Dr. Neff brought thoughtful insight, administrative expertise, and a steadfast commitment to advancing trauma care across the Commonwealth. His contributions to committee work, accreditation deliberations, and strategic planning have left a lasting mark on our organization.

We thank Dr. Neff for his dedicated service to PTSF and to Pennsylvania's trauma system, and we wish him every success in the next chapter.

PTSF STAFF NEWS



2026 Trauma Symposium Registration is Open!

Join us October 22–23, 2026 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel for two days of cutting-edge education in trauma care.

Connect with trauma professionals from across Pennsylvania and gain insights into the latest techniques and research shaping the field.

[Register today](#) to secure your spot!

Important Update: The American Trauma Society Trauma Program Management Course (TPMC), previously scheduled in conjunction with the conference, has been canceled due to low enrollment.

PTSF Clinical Excellence Award Nominations Due!

Don't miss the opportunity to recognize excellence in trauma care across Pennsylvania!

PTSF's new Clinical Excellence Award honors individuals, teams, hospitals, EMS organizations, and trauma programs that demonstrate outstanding performance, innovation, leadership, collaboration, and commitment to improving patient outcomes.

Nominations should highlight exceptional patient outcomes, innovative practice, collaboration, leadership, or contributions to education and safety. Complete the [online nomination form](#) by August 1, 2026. Award recipients will be recognized at the PTSF Trauma Symposium on October 22, 2026.



Full details available in [Policy BD-123](#).

PTSF BOARD & TRAUMA CENTER NEWS

Policy and Procedure Committee



Board Committee Chair:
Jeffrey Kuklinski, DO, MBE, CMTE



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:

BD-124 Protected Reporting: This new policy reinforces the commitment to ethical conduct and protects applicant and accredited hospitals, their personnel, and PTSF Board members from adverse action solely for raising good-faith concerns about unlawful or unsafe practices, participating in related investigations, or opposing conduct that violated Pennsylvania's Whistleblower Law.



2026 Trauma Symposium
Room Block Closes
Monday, September 28th!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES



Software Transition and PIPS Update

Rebecca Geyer, MSN, RN, TCRN

Director of Performance Improvement

rgeyer@ptsf.org

Project Update: This second quarter of 2026 was busy with major updates scheduled for the July 31st release focusing on PI and additional valuable reporting such as the Annual and Quarterly report. Given the significant redesign of the PIPS platform and flow of documentation, please be sure to watch the pre-recorded educational content overviewing these changes (notification posted in TraumaHQ when available). Additionally, the PIPS and Registry team will be conducting live educational Q&A virtual sessions highlighting updates from the July 31st TraumaHQ release on:

- Monday, August 10th from 12p-1p
and
- Wednesday, August 19th from 12p-1p

Please watch the content prior to the Q & A session and bring any questions. Calendar invites for these Live QA sessions were sent out to TPMs, PICs and Registrars. Feel free to forward to additional team members internally as indicated. If you did not receive an invite and need one, please reach out to Maggie Broadwell at mbroadwell@ptsf.org.

Reporting – Reflecting on one of the Board priorities for TraumaHQ, IQVIA continues to increase the momentum and work related to reporting. Work is ongoing on a report solution within THQ to allow querying, and additional operational reports are being built.

Data Migration -Thank you to the trauma programs that were able to sign Addendum #2 to the EULA, granting data migration access to the full Registry team. As previously communicated, allowing additional PTSF Staff members' data access will improve the efficiency and speed of data migration occurring during the review process. Phase 1 data is anticipated later in 2026, as the IQVIA team continues to work on large stroke data validation work to decrease errors within migration reports.

ESO Report Writer License Expiration

Although PTSF's service contracts with ESO officially ended on December 31, 2024, PTSF and many of our trauma centers have continued to utilize ESO Report Writer software to access and analyze data prior to 2022, which has not yet been migrated into the TraumaHQ platform. Unfortunately, the license to continue to utilize Report Writer recently expired. While it was understood that the ESO Report Writer software would eventually become unavailable, PTSF was unaware of this specific expiration date. We recognize the significant impact the loss of this tool has on trauma centers across the Commonwealth.

Although it is not possible to restore access to the Report Writer software, PTSF staff successfully tested and validated a process to convert ESO exports that contain all Phase 1 migration data that have not yet migrated into TraumaHQ, into CSV files. These CSV files can then be paired with your preferred data analytic software (Excel, PowerBI, etc.). Please note, Phase 1 data is still in process to be migrated into TraumaHQ! This alternative to convert Phase 1 data into a CSV file is to provide you access to your Phase 1 data until it is available within TraumaHQ.

If you need immediate access to some or all of your program's Phase 1 data, PTSF can assist you! To convert your center's ESO exports into usable CSV files, you will need assistance from Grant Dittmer, PTSF Software Transition Manager. Completed CSV files will be password protected and exchanged through a secure Microsoft SharePoint site (or if small enough, could be encrypted and sent via email). If your center prefers an alternative method for secure data transfer, please discuss those options with Grant during the process. If you would like to work with Grant to obtain a CSV file of your trauma program's data, you must complete the Microsoft Form linked below!

Legacy Data Conversion Request

Once your form submission has been received, Grant will contact you directly to schedule a time to complete the conversion process. Please indicate on your Microsoft Form submission if your center's current research or data project is being impacted by this issue. Priority will be given to those with established research and/or funding associated with a current data project.

Please know that the PTSF and IQVIA teams continue to work diligently on data migration efforts. We anticipate that Phase 1 data (ESO data from 2021 and prior) will be available in late 2026.

The loss of ESO Report Writer has also had a significant impact on PTSF's ability to respond to data requests from the central site perspective. If you or your colleagues have submitted research requests, please expect longer-than-usual response times. Although we continue to have access to central site data, reformatting datasets and adapting to new reporting tools requires substantial time and effort. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition. PTSF takes tremendous pride in the Pennsylvania Trauma Outcome Study (PTOS) and its longstanding reputation as a reliable resource for researchers and trauma professionals. We remain committed to ensuring that PTOS continues to be a high-quality, dependable dataset that supports meaningful research and drives improvements in patient outcomes across the Commonwealth.

Do not hesitate to reach out to PTSF staff with questions or concerns. We remain available to assist you through all aspects of the ongoing software transition.

[Educational Video: PIPS Timeliness of Submission Report Overview:](#) (Password: TraumaHQEducation)

[PTSF PI Bookings Link](#)



Trauma Registry Update

Lyndsey Diehl, MHA, RHIA, CHDA, CSTR

Director of Trauma Registry

ldiehl@ptsf.org

TR-110 - Timeliness of Submission to the Central Site

While TR-110 – Timeliness of Submission to the Central Site has not been formally waived by the PTSF Board of Directors, this policy has not been enforced since prior to the software transition (2024). PTSF staff and the Board of Directors understood the challenges related to the intensity of the software transition and recognized that the ability to abstract trauma registry data timely and efficiently was significantly impacted. During this time, PTSF staff continued to monitor registry timeliness of submission on a quarterly basis and provided the PTSF Board of Directors with statewide aggregate registry timeliness submission data.

Based on significant improvements in statewide registry timeliness of submission data since TraumaHQ go-live and the importance of timely registry data submission, at the July 2026 PTSF Board of Directors Meeting, the Board decided to reinstate policy TR-110 fully **effective January 1, 2027**. Beginning with Q1 2027 registry timeliness data, any center with 6 months or more of registry submissions below 85% will be required to submit an action plan and progress update as outlined in TR-110. Through this process, the PTSF Board may issue a trauma registry timeliness significant issue based on failure of a center to show progress towards resolution of timeliness issues. Please refer to the policy for further information.

TraumaHQ can generate and review the Timeliness of Submission report under Operational Reports to help in the evaluation of submission timeliness. Beginning in July 2026, centers will also begin receiving quarterly reports which contain registry timeliness of submission data. If your center is struggling with registry timeliness of submission, please contact PTSF registry staff for guidance and support.

PTSF staff and the PTSF Board of Directors commend all PA trauma centers for remaining dedicated to submitting trauma registry data timely despite the challenges of the software transition.

PTSF TraumaHQ User Satisfaction Survey – Registry Form

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete and submit the recently distributed TraumaHQ User Satisfaction Survey for the Registry Form! Your feedback is important to us and will help shape the future direction of TraumaHQ software improvements. Additional surveys requesting feedback for other TraumaHQ modules will be released in the near future. We greatly appreciate your continued participation in these important surveys!

TQIP Call for Data Reminder

The next TQIP Call for Data deadline is September 1, 2026. TQIP participating centers should submit data from January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026 for this upcoming deadline. More information regarding TQIP Call for Data schedule can be found [here](#).

An updated “Known TQIP Issues” document will be posted within the library resources of TraumaHQ with any new issues PTSF staff is made aware of related to the upcoming TQIP submission. Please utilize the TraumaHQ User Support Request Form to submit any questions or concerns to PTSF staff regarding TQIP Validation Summary Reports.

PTSF staff will attempt to address your questions and concerns as quickly as possible. Please note that while PTSF staff are 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.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Trauma Registry Committee

Gabrielle Wenger, RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR

Trauma Registry Specialist

gwenger@ptsf.org

Committee Chair: Tracy Vazquez, CSTR

Committee Vice-Chair/Board Liaison: Stephanie Sailes, BSN, RN

The Trauma Registry Committee met June 11, 2026, and reviewed recommendations for 2027 annual updates. The Board of Directors approved the changes listed below for the 2027 PTOS data set. These changes will go into effect, beginning with patients with hospital arrival January 1, 2027.

- Add two new menu options to the element “Reasons for Transfer Out”
 - OMFS (non-ocular)
 - Labor & Delivery/OB
- Add logic for Audit Filter D to exclude non-participatory patients (highlighted portion)
 - • SBIRT Screening not completed – (Audit Filter D)

“Was a screen completed to evaluate for substance abuse?” = NO

AND

Patient is ≥ 12 years

AND

Discharge Status = Alive

AND

Admitting Service ≠ Not Admitted

AND

Reason (SBIRT) Screen Not Completed ≠ Non-participatory

- Add logic for Audit Filter E to exclude non-participatory patients (highlighted portion)
 - SBIRT Intervention not completed – (Audit Filter E)
 - Screen Result = POSITIVE
 - AND
 - “Was a brief intervention offered?” = NO
 - AND
 - Patient is ≥ 12 years
 - AND
 - Discharge Status = Alive
 - AND
 - Admitting Service $\neq$ Not Admitted
 - AND
 - Reason (SBIRT) Screen Not Completed $\neq$ Non-participatory
- Add an optional, facility only checkbox and date field to indicate if a non-qualifying record is completed to internal, individual facility requirement.
 - Minimum Data Filled
 - Date Reviewed
- Add logic for Audit Filters 10, 16, 23, and A
 - Each of these filters includes specific procedure codes or code ranges in the criteria, however, when there are no procedures codes entered, the audit filter cannot determine if that is appropriate or missing data. These records are currently all reporting as “Not Yet Recorded”.
 - A new line of logic will be added which will help identify if the record is incomplete or if no procedures were performed on the patient.
 - The new field “Were any procedures performed on patient?” [Yes/No] will reduce the number of records marked as “Not Yet Recorded” for the audit filter.
 - Full logic for these audit filters will be provided in the Annual Updates education.



Standards Committee

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

Director of Accreditation

dgondell@ptsf.org

Board Liaison: Patrick Kim, MD, FACS

The PTSF Board of Directors has approved a clarification to the Level IV Trauma Center brought directly to the Board due to timing. This clarification addresses the qualifications of the Admitting Medical Service Liaison and participation in the multidisciplinary trauma peer review process.

Standard 10: Physicians

- Admitting Medical Service Liaison, Level IV

Clarified that the primary Admitting Medical Service Liaison must be a physician. However, the attendance benchmark may be shared with a second identified liaison who may be either a physician or an Advanced Practitioner (AP).

- Effective immediately

For questions or comments about this update, please contact Standards Committee PTSF Staff Liaison Darlene Gondell at dgondell@ptsf.org. To submit discussion topics for the Standards Committee—including proposed new Standards or clarification requests—please use the **Standards Request Form**.

PA-TQIP Collaborative



PTSF STAFF: Rebecca Geyer, Gaby Wenger, Maggie Broadwell

Dr. Raquel Forsythe, TPMD UPMC Presbyterian
Dr. R. Lopez TPMD at Geisinger Wyoming Valley
Mike Taramelli TPM at AHN Forbes
Lisa LaRock TPM at Guthrie Robert Packer

Pediatric Readiness:

The PA-TQIP Collaborative extends appreciation to the 52 hospitals that participated in the statewide pediatric readiness gap analysis conducted in June. Responses were received from nearly all adult trauma centers and every pediatric trauma center, providing valuable insight into pediatric emergency readiness across Pennsylvania.

The survey findings identified opportunities to strengthen pediatric readiness statewide and reinforced that many injured children initially receive care at hospitals that are not trauma centers before being transferred to a pediatric trauma center for definitive care. Because children and their families cannot choose where emergencies occur, ensuring that every hospital is prepared to provide high-quality pediatric emergency care remains a shared statewide trauma priority.

To support this goal, a joint PTSF and PA-TQIP Collaborative call to action has been submitted to seven key Pennsylvania leaders, including the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Dr. Bogen, and Governor Shapiro, advocating for policy and initiatives that strengthen pediatric readiness across all hospitals and help ensure that every child receives high-quality care in hospitals that are university ready to receive them.

Policy TO-101 PA Trauma Quality Improvement Program Collaborative (PA-TQIP)

The PTSF Board of Directors approved a new policy, TO-101 PA Trauma Quality Improvement Program Collaborative (PA-TQIP), which formally documents the governance, membership, and operational structure of the Pennsylvania TQIP Collaborative. This policy codifies practices, ensuring that the Collaborative's structure is transparent, durable, and consistent with the American College of Surgeons TQIP Cooperation Agreement.



Join ATSPA: Strengthen Trauma Prevention Across Pennsylvania

Hospitals and trauma professionals are essential partners in preventing injuries and improving trauma care. ATSPA membership connects your team with education, resources, grant opportunities, conference discounts, and a statewide network committed to reducing the impact of trauma. Join today and help advance prevention, advocacy, and patient-centered care across Pennsylvania. Visit: www.atspa.org.

EDUCATION

New TRAUMA Program Nurse Leader Orientation

The next summer orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. New nurse leaders are invited to join PTSF staff for this orientation, which will be facilitated by several PTSF team members. Topics will include an introduction to PTSF, an overview of trauma registry, website resources, trauma performance improvement, accreditation, and a site survey overview. This program is designed primarily for new Trauma Program Coordinators and Managers, Trauma Program Directors, Performance Improvement Coordinators, Nurse Registrars, Educators, and other trauma program nurse leaders from both pursuing and accredited centers. [Click here to register.](#)

KnowledgeConnex Special Access Codes

For easier access, a document titled “KnowledgeConnex – Special Access Codes” has been posted within the Library of TraumaHQ under Educational Offerings.

This document contains helpful information about registration for KnowledgeConnex courses and a list of all **special access codes**!

Please contact registryquestions@ptsf.org with any questions.

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. This can be accessed by clicking the blue box entitled; [“Staff Change Notification to PTSF”](#). 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 is to provide accurate directory information and email distribution groups. PTSF updates these resources continuously, with additional updates made several times per year in IQVIA. Updated information can be found in the library section under the PTSF heading, or the directory can be emailed upon request to aoliveros@ptsf.org. Please note that this change request does not modify 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.



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.

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](#).

The next PTSF Board Meeting is September 24, 2026.