

Policy:	Trauma System Organization and General Provisions	#533.00
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Medical Director: _____

EMS
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Review Date: 05-07

Tuolumne County EMS Policy #533.00
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1. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency recognizes the multi-disciplinary and inclusive nature of a systemized approach to the delivery of trauma care.
2. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating the trauma care system including:
 - a. Assessing needs and resource requirements;
 - b. Developing the system design, including the number of trauma center(s) and determining patient flow patterns;
 - c. Assigning roles to system participants, including designation of trauma center(s);
 - d. Coordinating outreach and mutual aid service with and between designated trauma centers, neighboring EMS systems and other system participants;
 - e. Development of a trauma data collection system, including trauma registries at designated trauma centers, data collection from participating non-trauma centers, and pre-hospital data collection;
 - f. Monitoring of the system to determine compliance with appropriate state laws and regulations, local EMS agency policies and procedures, and contracts, and taking corrective action as needed;
 - g. Evaluating the impact of the system and revising the system design as needed.

B. Trauma Care Coordination within the Trauma System:

1. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency endeavors to ensure that all emergency services providers within Tuolumne County are apprized of pertinent trauma system activities and functions.
2. All trauma system policies, procedures and guidelines are submitted for the advice and consent of the Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Care Committee. The Tuolumne County EMCC membership is designed to ensure representation from all EMS system participants.

C. Trauma Care Coordination with Neighboring EMS and Trauma Care Systems:

1. As described in the Tuolumne County Trauma System Plan, the trauma care system uses designated level I, level II and pediatric trauma centers in neighboring jurisdictions as the primary destination for major trauma patients.
2. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall seek agreements for trauma system coordination with neighboring jurisdictions, including

the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency, the Sacramento County EMS Agency and the Fresno-Kings-Madera EMS Agency. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall endeavor to include in the trauma system coordination agreements with neighboring jurisdictions a provision allowing appropriate staff from each jurisdiction to attend and participate in the trauma QA/QI activities of its neighboring/partnering jurisdiction.

3. The driving factor of the Tuolumne County Trauma Care System is the rapid transport of critically injured patients to a facility providing definitive trauma care.
4. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall coordinate the sharing and collection of trauma patient information between neighboring jurisdictions and various trauma system participants.

D. Trauma System Fees:

1. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall develop and recommend to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors trauma system fees which cover the cost of designation and re-designation of trauma centers and the monitoring and evaluation of the trauma system.

E. Trauma Center Service Areas:

1. The planned level II trauma centers in Modesto shall serve as the primary receiving facilities for adult major trauma patients in the Tuolumne County Trauma Care System. The design of the service areas for the Modesto trauma centers shall be included in the trauma agreement with the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency for coordination of neighboring trauma care systems.
2. The UC Davis Medical Center and Central California Children's Hospital shall serve as the primary receiving facilities for pediatric major trauma patients in the Tuolumne County Trauma Care System. The service area for UC Davis Medical Center shall be that portion of Tuolumne County which lies North of the middle fork of the Tuolumne River. The service area for Central California Children's Hospital shall be that portion of Tuolumne County which lies South of the middle fork of the Tuolumne River.
3. Distinct service areas for level III or level IV trauma centers in Sonora shall not be established. Destination decision making for patients being transported to a level III and level IV trauma center shall be based on the ambulance transport time from the scene to an emergency department.

- F. Coordination with Health Maintenance Organizations and Other Managed Care:
1. The trauma triage and destination policies of the Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall not consider a patient's insurance status when determining the destination of major trauma patients. Trauma centers are encouraged to cooperate with health maintenance organization in the transfer of trauma patients to member hospitals when medically appropriate.
 2. Trauma centers shall make a good faith effort to negotiate agreements with managed care organizations and other health plan organizations regarding payment, repatriation of patients and other related activities.
 3. Trauma centers shall comply with all provisions of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act and other federal, state and local laws addressing the triage, stabilization, treatment, and transfer of patients.
- G. Coordination of EMS and Trauma System for Transportation Including Intra-Trauma Center Transfers and Transfers from a Receiving Hospital to a Trauma Center:
1. The Tuolumne County Trauma Care System is an inclusive system and as such all hospitals have a role in providing trauma care to injured patients.
 2. Level III and level IV trauma centers are required, as a condition of designation, to establish and maintain transfer agreements with the Level I Trauma Center and Pediatric Trauma Center at the UC Davis Medical Center, the Pediatric Trauma Center at Central California Children's Hospital and the planned level II trauma centers in Modesto.
 3. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall actively encourage the higher level trauma centers in neighboring jurisdictions to establish transfer agreements with the level III and level IV trauma centers in Tuolumne County.
 4. Transferring physicians in cooperation with the higher level facility shall be responsible obtaining the appropriate level and type of patient transportation.
- H. The Integration of Pediatric Hospitals:
1. Major trauma patients under the age of 15 years who meet triage criteria shall be transported by air ambulance to a designated pediatric trauma center. (Refer to EMS Policy No. 535.10)

2. Level III and level IV trauma centers are required, as a condition of designation, to establish and maintain transfer agreements with the Level I Pediatric Trauma Center at the UC Davis Medical Center and the Pediatric Trauma Center at Central California Children's Hospital.
 3. Level III and level IV trauma centers are required, as a condition of designation, to establish policies and procedures for identifying pediatric patients who may benefit from a consultation with specialist at a pediatric trauma center.
- I. Trauma Center Equipment:
1. EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards establish the required equipment and service capabilities for trauma center designation.
- J. Ensuring the Availability of Trauma Team Personnel:
1. EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards require the trauma program medical director in cooperation with the Tuolumne County EMS Agency to develop policies regarding the type and number of trauma team members, levels of trauma team activation and trauma team membership requirements.
 2. EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards define and establish requirements for surgical and non-surgical specialist availability including who shall be immediately or promptly available.
- K. Criteria for Trauma Team Activation:
1. EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards require the trauma program medical director in cooperation with the Tuolumne County EMS Agency to develop policies regarding the type and number of trauma team members, levels of trauma team activation and trauma team membership requirements.
- L. Mechanism for the Prompt Availability of Specialists:
1. EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards require the trauma program medical director in cooperation with the Tuolumne

County EMS Agency to develop policies regarding the type and number of trauma team members, levels of trauma team activation and trauma team membership requirements.

2. EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards define and establish requirements for surgical and non-surgical specialist availability including who shall be immediately or promptly available.

M. Training of Pre-hospital EMS Personnel:

1. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall implement a trauma system orientation program to educate current and future EMS personnel regarding trauma patient triage, destination decision making, medical control and other pertinent aspects of the Tuolumne County Trauma Care System.
2. Designated level III and level IV trauma centers shall ensure that all emergency department and trauma services personnel complete trauma system orientation.
3. Paramedics applying for accreditation are required to complete the trauma system orientation program prior to receiving accreditation.
4. Trauma system orientation classes shall be provided for current pre-hospital EMS personnel during trauma system implementation.

N. Public Information and Education about the Trauma System:

1. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency is committed to the support and the promotion of injury prevention and safety education.
2. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall facilitate speakers to address public groups and serve as a resource for trauma information and education.
3. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency in cooperation with Tuolumne County Public Health develops and implements injury prevention programs and assists community and professional groups in the development and dissemination of education to the public regarding injury prevention, safety education and the role of the trauma care system.
4. Level III and level IV trauma centers are required, as a condition of designation to provide outreach programs to the public including injury prevention. (EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center

O. Marketing and Advertising:

1. In accordance with Health and Safety Code §1798.165(c) no healthcare provider shall use the terms “trauma facility,” “trauma hospital,” “trauma center,” “trauma care provider,” “trauma vehicle,” or similar terminology in its signs or advertisements, or in printed material and information it furnishes to the general public unless its use is specifically authorized by the Tuolumne County EMS Agency.
2. All marketing and promotional plans with respect to trauma center designation shall be submitted to the Tuolumne County EMS Agency for review and approval, prior to implementation. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency shall review plans using the following guidelines:
 - a. Provides accurate information;
 - b. Makes no false claims;
 - c. Not critical of other providers;
 - d. Does not include financial inducements to providers or third parties.

P. Coordination with Public and Private Agencies and Trauma Centers in Injury Prevention Programs:

1. The Tuolumne County EMS Agency in cooperation with Tuolumne County Public Health develops and implements injury prevention programs and assists community and professional groups in the development and dissemination of education to the public regarding injury prevention, safety education and the role of the trauma care system.
2. Level III and level IV trauma centers are required, as a condition of designation to provide outreach programs to the public including injury prevention. (EMS Policy 534.30 Level III Trauma Center Standards and EMS Policy 534.40 Level IV Trauma Center Standards.)