



## **Pennsylvania Trauma Quality Improvement Program (PA TQIP)/ Publications Policy**

The Pennsylvania Trauma Quality Improvement Program (PA-TQIP) comprises all eligible accredited trauma centers across Pennsylvania that submit data to PA-TQIP. Participating trauma centers may then access aggregate data for quality improvement purposes.

PA-TQIP is designed to encourage the dissemination of new insights and best practices regarding trauma care through research, defined generally as a systemic investigation of information designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (“Research”), such as scholarly abstracts, presentations and publications (each a “Publication”). However, because PA-TQIP requires the participation and collaboration of numerous independent trauma centers, an individual trauma center must follow certain guidelines with respect to Research and Publications in order to ensure the proper use of the data, the confidentiality of the data, and the appropriate recognition of intellectual contributions by other trauma centers:

- 1) Trauma centers participating in PA-TQIP own the data that they submit to PA-TQIP, and therefore shall determine how its data will be used and disclosed.
- 2) PA-TQIP data that is reviewed or analyzed for the purpose of, and/or included in a Publication, including any aggregated or individual data from other trauma centers, may be used only for quality improvement and Research purposes but not for any other purpose, including, but not limited to, for marketing or for competitive advantage. For example, a trauma center may not use data accessed through PA-TQIP from other trauma centers on a billboard/flyer advertisement that includes comparative standing results for trauma centers involving PA-TQIP data.
- 3) A trauma center will acknowledge in a Publication any Research, conclusion or finding performed or determined by another trauma center whether the Research, conclusion or finding was included in a Publication, disclosed at a PA-TQIP meeting, or made available otherwise.
- 4) Except with respect to its own data or information, a trauma center will protect the confidentiality of the following data and information when performing any Research or in any Publication:

- Patient health information, i.e., including information that identifies or could be used to identify an individual in any form or media.
- PA-TQIP trauma center case information.
- Information discussed regarding a specific PA-TQIP trauma center outcome.
- Information related to a specific PA-TQIP trauma center result or analysis.
- Any other data or information that identifies, or could identify, a patient or trauma center.

**Any violation of this policy will be reported to the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Board of Directors.**

Please see the PA-TQIP Meeting Confidentiality Policy and Agreement for information on how PA-TQIP data that is disclosed in a PA-TQIP meeting may be used and disclosed.