

Memo

To: Accredited Trauma Centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation
From: Juliet Altenburg, RN, MSN, Executive Director
cc: PTSF Board of Directors
Date: December 15, 2015
Re: Level III legislative mileage criteria and impact on accreditation

On December 3, 2015, the PTSF Board of Directors discussed the implications of EMS Act language that states that a Level III trauma center must be greater than 25 miles from a Level I, II, or III trauma center. The Board discussed how it would handle two applicant hospitals being reviewed as new Level II or Level III trauma centers during the same deliberation meeting where the referenced language in the EMS Act would be triggered. The Board determined that based on the statutory language, if the Level II trauma center was accredited, the PTSF would be obligated to recognize the Level II trauma center and offer Level IV (not Level III) accreditation to the pursuing Level III hospital. Moreover, in the event the Board approves a hospital for Level II accreditation less than 25 miles from a previously established Level III trauma center, the Level III accreditation would be grandfathered for the remainder of that hospital's certificate of accreditation. However, once the certificate of accreditation duration was ended, that Level III trauma center would only have the option of applying for Level I, II or IV accreditation in the future.

This advisory memorandum is intended to put all applicant and current trauma centers on notice of the applicable language in the EMS Act and communicate how the PTSF intends to comply with the relevant statutory mandate.

To access the EMS language noted above please go to the PTSF website at www.ptsf.org and click on "Resources" and "Research & References".

Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.