

The following communication highlights recent approvals from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

## COVID-19 – TRAUMA CENTER IMPLICATIONS

The PTSF Board of Directors and staff are grateful to all our trauma centers for the incredible efforts taking place in caring for COVID-19 patients and adjusting resources to meet healthcare demands during this worldwide pandemic.

We appreciate that compliance to Standards of Accreditation may be challenging during this time. In response to a number of questions and concerns generated by our trauma center community, a resource document is now available to explain how the PTSF board and staff will address these challenges. The document, titled, "Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation COVID-19 Standard Compliance and Accreditation Implications," addresses frequently asked questions regarding trauma center operations, Standards compliance, accreditation, and site survey implications.

[Click here](#), or go to the Resources/COVID-19 section of the website to view this resource.

## PTSF TRAUMA CENTER TOWN HALL DISCUSSION ON COVID-19

Join us Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at noon for a one-hour Trauma Center Town Hall meeting. The agenda will include a PTSF update and feature five PTSF board members giving presentations on the impact of COVID-19 on their hospitals and health systems. Everyone is invited to attend; however, a recorded version be posted to the PTSF website. Registration is required, and details are listed below:

When: Apr 22, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Where: [CLICK HERE](#) to register in advance for this ZOOM™ session

Details: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thank you for your incredible support during this challenging time. We will plan to do more of these meetings if they are well received.

## COVID-19 DATA ELEMENT ADDITION TO PTOS STATEWIDE TRAUMA REGISTRY DATABASE

Submitted by: Gabrielle Wenger, RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR—Trauma Registry Auditor

Beginning April 1, 2020, a new PTOS element was required for all patients. The element is *COVID-19 Result Status*. This reports the testing status of all patients. On March 27, 2020, staff received instructions on how to add this to their registry. On April 9, 2020, NTDB/TQIP sent a communication regarding how to report COVID-19 to NTDB/TQIP. ESO/DI is working on a software update to support this. Information will be sent when the update is ready.

This is a required element and must be reported on all PTOS patients. If you have any questions about getting started, abstracting or reporting this element, please email [Gabrielle Wenger](#).

## PTSF COMMITTEE UPDATES AND BOARD ACTIONS

The following items highlight Committee changes and clarifications approved by the Board of Directors that were moved forward by their respective committees.

### STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Charles Barbera, MD, MBA, FACEP, FAAEM—Chair  
Amy Krichten, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN—Staff Liaison  
Darlene Gondell, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

#### Standard 1: Commitment & Standard 10: Physicians

- Clarification for Level IV trauma centers: Defined provider response time expectations for all levels of activation must include non-activation trauma / injured patients.
  - The trauma program may define non-activation trauma patient's response time as a tiered response expectation based on triage level, for example, ESI level.

#### Standard 2: Capacity & Ability and Appendix A

- When transfer is deemed necessary, the patient must transfer to a higher-level trauma center.

#### Standard 8: Injury Prevention

- Providers participating in the care of the injured patient should have access to trauma-informed care training as defined by ACS TQIP Best Practice Guidelines for Trauma Center Recognition of Child Abuse, Elder Abuse, and Intimate Partner Violence, released November 2019. [https://www.facs.org/-/media/files/quality-programs/trauma/tqip/abuse\\_guidelines.ashx](https://www.facs.org/-/media/files/quality-programs/trauma/tqip/abuse_guidelines.ashx)

#### Standard 10: Physicians

- Level III and IV trauma centers must have the primary Anesthesia Liaison be an Anesthesia Physician, but the second Anesthesia Liaison may be an Anesthesia Physician or CRNA.

#### Standard 11: Advanced Practitioners

- Clarification of ATLS requirements for AP.
  - ATLS course must be completed prior to functioning as a member of the team caring for trauma activation patients.
  - ATLS course must be completed prior to functioning as a first responder in any phase of trauma care.

#### Standard 27: Geriatrics

- The institution must have a policy/procedure/guideline that defines the abuse screening and management of geriatric patients with suspected or confirmed elder abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking. Reporting of abuse must comply with Pennsylvania law and hospital policy. Compliance is expected by 05.01.2021.

The revised Standards of Accreditation will be available on the PTSF web site (dated 05.01.2020) with additional details. Please submit any requests for Standards Committee topic discussion (for example, suggested new standard or clarification of current standard) anytime to [Darlene Gondell](#). The next Standards Committee meeting occurs in June. Any requests for subject discussion must be submitted by May 6, 2020.

## APPLICATION FOR SURVEY (AFS) UPDATE

Amy Krichten, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN—Director of Accreditation  
Darlene Gondell, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN—Manager of Accreditation

Each year an AFS Workgroup, consisting of trauma program staff who completed the AFS that year, gather to discuss potential changes to the AFS. Based on the recommendations from this year's AFS Workgroup, several changes have been submitted including the PI Peer Review committee meeting attendance question, which has undergone a major change.

Trauma Programs completing the AFS for a 2021 survey are required to complete and upload the Committee Attendance Log Template (available on the PTSF website in the Resources-Site Survey Toolkit section and on the Central Site Portal in the Support section) in lieu of the previous version that required input into a table. This new template is formatted to include all required and alternate committee members. Instructions for completing this required template is included within the template.

A list of AFS attachments and reports is available on the PTSF website in the Resources-Site Survey Toolkit section. The AFS User Manual for 2021 Site Surveys is available on the Central Site Portal in the Support section. Additional optional templates are available on the Central Site Portal Support section.

The 2021 version of the AFS will be uploaded in the fall of 2020. Communication will be sent when it is available. Thank you to all those who participated in the AFS Workgroup! Direct all AFS content questions to [Amy Krichten](#), and [Darlene Gondell](#). Contact Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO for all AFS/Central Site Portal functionality issues.

## STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Save the Date . . . for upcoming events. If you have events that you would like to advertise on the PTSF calendar, contact [Linda Stamey](#).

### These dates are subject to change based on the latest COVID-19 guidance.

- July 24-27, 2020—ACS Quality & Safety Conference
- September 2-4, 2020—Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) Annual PA-EMS Conference
- September 8-11, 2020—Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Annual Conference
- September 14-17, 2020—American Health Information Management Assoc. (AHIMA) Annual Conference
- September 16-19, 2020—AAST Annual Member Meeting & Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery
- September 30-October 3, 2020—Orthopedic Trauma Association (OTA) Annual Meeting
- October 4-8, 2020—American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Meeting & Clinical Congress
- October 13-16, 2020—Assoc. for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) Annual Conference
- October 14-17, 2020—American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Annual Conference
- **October 19-21, 2020—PTSF Fall Conference & Annual Meeting**
- October 26-29, 2020—American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Scientific Assembly
- October 26-30, 2020—5<sup>th</sup> Annual World Trauma Conference, hosted by the Australian Trauma Society
- November 4-7, 2020—Pediatric Trauma Society (PTS) Annual Conference
- December 6-8, 2020—TQIP Annual Scientific Meeting & Training, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the TQIP Program