

The following communication highlights recent approvals from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020. If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

REMAINING FLEXIBLE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Submitted by [Juliet Altenburg](#), Executive Director

We are grieving the loss of life as we knew it. COVID-19 has changed our lives personally and professionally in profound ways. From a PTSF operational perspective, all staff have been working remotely from their homes since March 100% of the time. Fortunately, we were all doing this in part pre-pandemic, so the transition was an easy one at least in relation to maintaining communications.

What has been an adjustment to all of us is planning for the future and remaining flexible and nimble as we plan for regulatory and education visits with our hospitals in the safest way possible. I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire PTSF staff for doing just that. A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into planning and re-planning our work calendar. Amy and Darlene have worked nonstop to adjust the site survey schedule and have kept everyone informed as quickly as possible. Performance Improvement and Registry education visits has gone virtual and the load is heavier considering two staff vacancies. Thank you, Amy, Darlene, and Gaby, for taking the lead in this education. And right behind those staff are an entire PTSF team who are working tirelessly to implement new safety policies, technology, the PTSF Fall Conference, budgeting and finances, a new website, data processing for research and registry reports, customer service for 55 hospitals, board/committee meeting planning . . . and the list goes on. Thank you, Kevin, Lyndsey, Stephanie, Dor, and Linda. And then there is our Board of Directors and those we work to support: All our trauma centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation. Thank you for your patience, courage, and tireless efforts in assuring patients are cared for as you protect yourselves.

You are the heroes. You make us proud; you give our work meaning. Thank you for all you do.



Masked and ready for a recent panel visit—from left D. Gondell, A. Krichten

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Several members of the Board of Directors will end their service to PTSF at the end of 2020. Each board member represents an organization that has allotted seats on the board, as established in legislation. The nominating organizations submit candidates for consideration by the PTSF Nominating Committee who are then approved by the entire Board of Directors.



Philip E. Pandolph, President/Chief Executive Officer, Meadville Medical Center, Meadville, Pa.

Philip was nominated to the board in 2012. He served as board Secretary/Treasurer from 2013-2019. He currently serves on several committees including Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Philip vacates a seat occupied by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP). His term is ending due to term limit requirements that allow for no more than three, 3-year terms on the board.



Susan L. Williams, MD, Conemaugh Health System, Johnstown, Pa. On August 1, 2020, Susan Williams retired as Chief Medical Officer for the Conemaugh Health System.

Dr. Williams was nominated to the board in 2019. She serves on several committees, and she will continue her board service through the remainder of 2020.

Dr. Williams vacates a seat occupied by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP).



Patrick M. Reilly, MD, Chief, Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery, Penn Medicine – Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pa.

“Pat” was nominated to the board in 2010. He was approved to serve an additional year in 2019 to fill his term as Board Chair, as well as an additional year in the role of Immediate Past Chairman (2020). Pat has served on numerous committees and workgroups.

Dr. Reilly vacates a seat occupied by the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED).

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Submitted by [Amy Krichten](#), Director of Accreditation

At the July Board of Directors meeting, a resource document titled, [PTSF Board Expectations for Trauma Center Return to Operational Compliance](#) was approved. This document is posted to the Resources section of the website within the COVID-19 – Coronavirus Resources & Information section. The intention is to provide programs with guidelines for compliance with PTSF policies and Standards of Accreditation as hospital operations return during the COVID-19 pandemic evolution. Additional resources are also posted to this area of the website.

A statewide communication was disseminated [July 24, 2020] regarding the Board of Director's decision regarding accreditation implications due to COVID-19. Every pursuing hospital and trauma program will be contacted regarding these implications. Follow-up letters will be issued to any trauma program that has a revised accreditation date. We thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this complex process.

The 2021 Application for Survey (AFS) is currently being updated by Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO. A communication will be sent in early October when updates are complete.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Submitted by [Kevin Burd](#), Director of Operations

Employment Opportunity

Manager of Trauma Performance Improvement—a revised employment ad is posted to this [LINK](#). Consider joining our Team.

Address Change

Please be advised that PTSF has a new mailing address, although the physical location has not changed. Please update your accounting/billing departments. The new address is:

Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
275 Cumberland Parkway, #234
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

We still encourage to use of electronic correspondence (EMAIL) since all paper mail is scanned and stored electronically. The only communications that should be mailed through the postal service are hospital payments of trauma center fees.

Thank you for your attention as we attempt to **GO GREEN** when possible!

TRAUMA REGISTRY & TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Submitted by [Lyndsey Diehl](#), Director of Trauma Data Quality

2020 Mid-Year Software Update

Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO staff distributed the 2020 mid-year patch to both local and Registry Anywhere software users in July 2020. Information regarding the patch and installation instructions was sent via e-mail at the time of distribution. Highlights of the 2020 mid-year patch include:

1. A check has been added to require the entry of PTOS Reserved Element – PTSF03 (COVID-19). This check cannot be validated.
2. AIS codes for the Antibiotic Therapy elements on the Procedures 2 tab within Collector have been updated.

Updated 2020 PTOS Manual and Facility List

An updated [PTOS/Collector Change Document \(July 2020\)](#) was posted to the Trauma Registry tab on the PTSF website. The resource document features the most recent changes and clarifications. Similarly, all facility lists were updated. If you are unable to locate a specific facility, contact PTSF registry staff and a number will be assigned for you.

Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO Support

Recently, PTSF staff were notified that several PA trauma centers were experiencing technical issues with their trauma registry software. If you are experiencing issues, please contact Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO Support (support.DI@eso.com) as soon as possible. Notify PTSF staff if you experience dissatisfaction with customer service staff from Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO. We are here to support you and will help to facilitate the resolution of any trauma registry software issues.

Registry Educational Visits

It has always been a priority of PTSF to provide meaningful and beneficial registry education. Due to the impact of COVID-19, PTSF staff members have conducted modified, virtual Trauma Registry Educational visits since March 2020. PTSF will resume in-person registry visits when it is safe to do so that medical records can be accessed. The PTSF Board of Directors supports in-person visits if risk mitigation practices are fully in place for both PTSF and hospital staff. PTSF staff will contact hospitals requiring a Trauma Registry Educational visit in 2020 with further details.

PTSF asks that all pursuing and accredited PA trauma centers begin having conversations with your IT departments to discuss the possibility of a virtual visit in which medical records can be reviewed remotely. Although in-person visits can resume, it is still the best practice to perform visits virtually when possible during our global pandemic. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Second Quarter 2020 PTOS Reports

2020 Second Quarter reports are currently being processed at the central site. These reports will be sent to each accredited trauma center by mid-August.

Registry FAQ's

We hope you find the FAQ section of the Trauma Registry tab on the PTSF website beneficial. FAQs are updated weekly with questions PTSF registry staff have received and answered. Unfortunately, the FAQs section can only house a limited number of questions. To access an archive of all FAQs, download the "Registry FAQs" document from the Resources section of the Trauma Registry tab. All recent FAQs can still be viewed directly from the FAQs section.

TRAUMA REGISTRY PROJECTS UPDATE

COLLECTOR™ Transition to V5 Trauma Registry Software

PTSF staff in collaboration with the Collector Transition to V5 Workgroup and Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO staff continue to work diligently towards the COLLECTOR™ transition to the V5 platform. The target rollout date is no later than July 1, 2021.

AIS 2015 Clarification and Timeline

ESO announced during their June 2020 Town Hall that they are planning on having AIS15 capabilities within the registry software in Q1 of 2021. Please note that there has been no decision regarding the implementation of AIS15 for PTOS. Implementation discussions will take place with the Trauma Registry Committee and PTSF Board of Directors in the future. Any decisions will be communicated with PA trauma centers.

Driller™

Driller is now available for all PA trauma centers to utilize! This tool allows centers to efficiently “drill-down,” or analyze PTOS data in several ways. PTSF and Digital Innovation, Inc. by ESO staff members will present further Driller education this fall. If you need login credentials to access Driller on the PTSF Web Portal, please contact [Lyndsey Diehl](#).

Registry Educational Software

Registry Educational Software is now available! This free software is a tool for PA trauma centers to perform interrater reliability effectively and consistently. The software can be used to review a select number of records and assess data entry practices for each data element. PTSF staff hopes PA Trauma Centers are utilizing this new tool and that it has enhanced the IRR process.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Charles Barbara, MD—Committee Chair

[Darlene Gondell](#), MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

The Board of Directors approved the following Standards of Accreditation changes/clarifications that the Standards of Accreditation Committee proposed during the July board meeting, including:

Standard 3: Trauma Program Medical Director

- Clarified that Trauma Program Medical Directors are not eligible to participate in an Alternate Pathway if Board Certified.

Standard 10: Physicians

- Clarified for Adult and Pediatric Level I & II Trauma Centers that the following Other Surgical Specialties must be available at the bedside when requested.

Standard 13: Nursing

- Added the requirement for all PACU nurses to maintain ACLS provider status, this is in addition to completing the trauma nursing education and annual continuing education.
 - Upgraded expectation; compliance due by May 1, 2021.

Appendix A: Inter-Facility Transfer & Consultation Requirements for Level III and IV Trauma Centers

- Revised the mandatory transfer requirements for Level III & IV centers.
 - Added an exception to the mandatory transfer of Head/C-Spine patients with a GCS \leq 14: patients at their normal baseline GCS less than 14 are not required to be transferred.
 - Revised that any rib fractures with the presence of flail chest must be transferred.
 - Revised that at Level III Trauma Centers 2 or more rib fractures with the presence of pulmonary contusion must be transferred.
 - Revised that at Level IV Trauma Centers any rib fractures with the presence of pulmonary contusion must be transferred.

Appendix C: Admission Considerations for Level IV Trauma Centers

- Revised the suggested admission considerations for Level IV centers.
 - Revised that rib fractures without presence of pulmonary contusion or flail chest may be admitted.

Glossary

- Clarified the definition of a First Responder:
 - A physician, or advanced practitioner that is the first provider contacted for emergencies 24 hours a day in any admitted unit/floor. The institution defines which provider is designated the first responder.

The revised Standards of Accreditation will be available on the PTSF web site mid-August 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 committee meeting occurs in October. Any requests for subject discussion must be submitted by September 1, 2020.

PA-TQIP COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Forrest Fernandez, MD, FACS; Donna Titus, MSN, RN; Denise Torres, MD, FACS; Jill Volgraf, BA, RN—PA-TQIP Leadership Team
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR—Staff Liaison

The PA-TQIP Collaborative Best Practice Management Guideline for [VTE Prophylaxis](#) is posted to the PA-TQIP Collaborative section within the Resources Tab of the website. The Collaborative worked throughout 2019-2020 to develop this Guideline. Contributors include Collaborative members, as well as pharmacology, neurosurgery, and orthopedic trauma specialists from member hospitals throughout the Commonwealth.

A Doodle poll was sent out to the TPMD and TPM groups at participating trauma programs to schedule the September PA-TQIP Collaborative conference call. The deadline to complete the poll has been extended to August 5, 2020. If you need the link to be resent, please contact [Gaby Wenger](#).

OUTCOMES COMMITTEE/PIPS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Denise Torres, MD—Outcomes Committee Chair
Richard Lopez, DO—PIPS Committee Chair
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR—Staff Liaison

The PA v5 Outcomes Data Submission User Guide is posted on the Central Site portal under PA v5 Outcomes Information. The submission process is unchanged. The submission steps were taken from the full PA v5 Outcomes Registry User Guide for quick reference on the process.

A survey regarding geriatric outcomes was sent to PI Coordinators at accredited trauma centers. The deadline for completion is August 14, 2020. Contact [Gaby Wenger](#) with any questions.

The PIPS committee is working on Functional Status Discharge and the Outcomes Committee is working to develop a Frailty Scoring Tool. If your trauma program has projects in place or practices you would like to share with either committee, please contact [Gaby Wenger](#).

TRAUMA REGISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN, CCRN-K—Committee Vice Chairman
[Lyndsey Diehl](#), RHIA, CHDA, CSTR—PTSF Staff Liaison

The Trauma Registry Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes to PTOS/Collector. These changes are effective January 1, 2021 and will be reflected in the 2021 PTOS Manual and 2021 Collector software. All changes to PTOS/Collector for 2021 admissions will be discussed in detail during the PTSF Fall Conference.

14-day Timeframe

The PTSF Board of Directors approved the addition of a 14-day timeframe from injury to initial hospital encounter to the PTOS Inclusion Criteria.

Transfers In/Out via Private Vehicle

The PTSF Board of Directors approved transfers via private vehicle be included within the transfer in/out criteria of the PTOS Inclusion Criteria.

The next Trauma Registry Committee meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2020. Please send any requests for discussion to [Lyndsey Diehl](#) by August 7, 2020.

POLICY & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jo Ann Miller, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN, TCRN—Committee Chairman
[Kevin Burd](#)—Staff Liaison

The Board of Directors approved several policy recommendations made by the Policy & Procedure Committee at the recent board meeting. The revised policies are effective immediately and posted to the Resources Tab website within the Policies & Guidelines subsection. They include:

[Policy BD-109 Non-Board Committee Membership](#)

The revision to BD-109 includes language regarding the transfer in committee leadership for committee chairs and vice-chairs.

[Policy BD-113 Payments & Refunds of Fees](#)

In general, there is no proposed policy change, rather clarification of current practice. In fact, any pursuing hospital that elects to not move forward with a scheduled site survey *after* the due date for any remaining fees is responsible to pay those fees. This includes the Accreditation Survey Fee (Section 2, b. iii.). The added language clarifies that not only are fees required to be paid on time, but all associated fees—*regardless of pursuit status*—must be paid on time.

[Policy BD-115 Process for Board Approval of Waiver Requests from Hospitals](#)

This revision includes language resulting from the Commonwealth's Act 54 of 2019 regarding hospital waivers. The revised language establishes that the status of all hospital waivers will be reviewed after every accreditation deliberation meeting of the Board of Directors and eliminates the process requiring hospitals to apply for annual renewal.

[Policy AC-130 Process for Becoming an Accredited Trauma Center](#)

Regarding pursuit status, hospital waiver language related to timing was inserted, as well as an indication for the pursuing center to participate in education offerings by PTSF staff members. Regarding the procedure, a new section was added to highlight the Commonwealth's Act 54 of 2019 and the legislative criteria for mileage from another accredited trauma center, and the indication for a hospital waiver. Language was added to clarify current procedures for invoicing for the Education Fee, and the triggers associated with the installation of software.

[Policy AC-136 Request for Reconsideration of Accreditation Deliberation Decision](#)

This policy revision outlines that a request from a trauma center may be written or electronic, but it must be received within 30-days from the date of the Accreditation Report. Additionally, language revision includes reference to summarizing all areas of disagreement rather than limiting them to key areas, as well as asking for reasons for reconsideration in the deliberation/site survey process.

[Policy AC-137 Accreditation Guidelines & Continuum for Board Members](#)

For this revision, language related to the "number" of significant issues was revised from "volume" to reduce confusion related to volume of trauma patients. Policy language was added to Section 5.e. to reflect the Commonwealth's Act 54 of 2019 related to required PTOS patient volumes for adult trauma centers. This section includes the assignment of a significant issue related to PTOS volume standard expectation non-compliance, and the action plan/progress report follow-up process.

[Policy AC-139 Level IV Trauma Center Mid-Cycle Panel Review](#)

These policy revisions reflect the recommendations of the Level IV Workgroup, which included panel participant hospitals and their mentoring hospitals. Previously titled, "Level IV Trauma Center Reaccreditation," the policy was renamed to reflect that Level IV trauma centers have a four-year accreditation cycle, and that the panel review is not a reaccreditation review. There is additional language added to clarify the requirements and expectations of the significant issue presentation during the panel review, as well as recommendations for the PI review portion of the meeting. Related to outcomes from the panel review, language was added related to significant issues and the board's consideration that those issue(s) are resolved or unresolved with progression toward resolution. Similarly, from the board deliberation/review of the panel review, new significant issues may be assigned.

[Policy AC-140 Level I, II & III Trauma Center Accreditation Extension](#)

This new policy is the culmination of years of work on behalf of the PTSF staff, PTSF committee members, trauma program staff, and TQIP Leadership. This policy was drafted with the information presented during the December 2019 board meeting, presented by Dr. Denise Torres, MD, FACS (PA-TQIP Collaborative, Co-Chair and Outcomes Committee, Chair). The policy establishes criterion for eligibility. This policy includes metrics for eligibility, application components and notification expectations. Eligible trauma centers will have the opportunity to apply for a one-year extension, in addition to the three-year accreditation. Beginning with eligible trauma centers surveyed in 2020, these trauma centers will have the opportunity to begin applying in spring 2022. Moving forward, all dates for the extension will be communicated to trauma centers in the Accreditation Report. PTSF staff will follow-up with trauma program staff related to eligibility requirements.

TRAUMA CENTER FUNDING UPDATE

Submitted by [Juliet Altenburg](#), Executive Director

Due to an error in data submission on behalf of one trauma center, all Level I, II, and III trauma centers were overpaid by the Pa Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) in June except for one trauma center that was underpaid. The DHS is currently working on a process to correct the situation and will be in touch with each impacted trauma center regarding next steps. We apologize for this error and are working with the DHS to put processes in place to safeguard against this in the future. The DHS contact person for funding is Erica Eisenacher, HSPS Supervisor, Department of Human Services Bureau of Fiscal Management. Division of Rate Setting, Phone: 717.214.6932, Email: eeisenache@pa.gov.

IN MEMORY ▪ HERBERT ARNOLD MULLER, MD (1949-2020)



Pennsylvania lost a strong trauma system advocate this past Spring who was responsible for the development of PTSF and the trauma system during his time as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health in the early 1980's. Herbert Arnold Muller, MD, died on April 29, 2020. He was born on April 16, 1930, in Albany, New York, to Herbert and Frances (Hart) Muller. Known as "Arn" throughout his life, he was a proud 1948 graduate of Buckley High School in New London. He knew from the age of 12 that medicine was his future, and pursued that career starting at Dartmouth College (Class of 1952, Phi Beta Kappa), and Harvard Medical School (Class of 1955).

He was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force prior to completing his internship and residency and served from 1955-1965. In 1965, Arn entered private practice in Carlisle. He began working at the U.S. Army War College clinic one overnight shift every month, a commitment he maintained until 1984. Emergency medical care became an area of great interest to him and in 1973, Arn was asked to establish the framework for the Emergency Department at the then Hershey Medical Center. The family moved to Hershey, where he worked tirelessly to build the department while balancing instructor responsibilities as first an assistant professor and then associate professor in the medical school. He was the first emergency physician and founding Chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine at Hershey. Considered one of the founding fathers of the field of emergency medicine, he campaigned to have the practice officially recognized as a specialty, which it was in 1979. In 1979, Gov. Dick Thornburgh appointed Dr. Muller Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pa. and he served in that position until 1987. While secretary, he assisted in the development of trauma systems, emergency medical service systems and radiation safety and lobbied for

accreditation of trauma centers and for EMT training standards. From 1987-2003, he served as chief of staff at the Lebanon VA Medical Center. Arn always felt fortunate that his avocation was also his vocation as he enjoyed it so much.

The family requested that any charitable donations go to the PA chapter of the American Trauma Society, either by check payable to ATSPA (2 Flowers Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050), or via the donation button on their website. Please include a note “Muller Scholarship Award.”

NEW TRAUMA PROGRAM NURSING LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

A virtual, online event for nurse leaders.

This course is being offered on September 29, 2020 from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (EST, 4.5 hours). [Registration](#) is required; the deadline to register is September 25, 2020. There is no fee for this event.

This *optional* course offers an overview for nurse leaders who are new to their roles in both accredited trauma centers, and hospitals pursuing trauma accreditation. The primary audience includes Trauma Program Coordinators/Managers, Trauma Program Directors and Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinators.

Provided by PTSF staff, this course features several topics to orient you and guide you in your new role. Highlights include the American College of Surgeons (ACS), PTSF, Trauma Registry, Trauma Performance Improvement, Site Survey & Accreditation, Trauma Program Resources, and “Hot Topics in Trauma.” If you have questions about the course description, contact [Amy Krichten](#).

24TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE & MEETING

Save the Date—October 19-21, 2020. The fall conference is going “virtual” and FREE. Sessions will be offered LIVE and on-demand. Applications are underway to offer CE/CME and educational credits for CSTRs. The Research Committee will host the 7th Annual PTOS Trauma Research Session. New this year, the committee will also offer “Quick-Shot” research presentations in lieu of the poster competition. Topics will include best practices in clinical care, accreditation, performance improvement, and trauma registry. The 12th Annual Maj. John P. Pryor Lecture, the PaCOT Residents Trauma Papers Competition, and the annual COLLECTOR™ Update will also be featured.

Stay tuned for further information related to registration this month. If you have any questions, contact [Kevin Burd](#).

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](#).

Dates are subject to change based on the latest COVID-19 guidance:

- August 24-25, 2020—VIRTUAL Pa American Health Information Management Assoc. (PHIMA) Annual Conference
 - <https://www.phima.org/annualmeeting/>
- September 2-4, 2020—VIRTUAL Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) Annual PA-EMS Conference
 - <http://pehsc.org/> to register for the FREE conference.
- September 8-11, 2020—VIRTUAL Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Annual Conference
 - <https://www.ena.org/events/emergency-nursing-2020> to learn more

- September 16-19, 2020—VIRTUAL AAST Annual Member Meeting & Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery
 - <https://www.aast.org/annual-meeting/2020-annual-meeting>
- September 30-October 3, 2020—VIRTUAL Orthopedic Trauma Association (OTA) Annual Meeting
 - <https://ota.org/education/2020-annual-meeting>
- October 4-8, 2020—VIRTUAL American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Meeting & Clinical Congress
 - <https://www.facs.org/clincon2020>
- October 13-16, 2020—VIRTUAL Assoc. for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) Annual Conference
 - <https://www.aaam.org/annual-conference/>
- October 14-17, 2020—American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Annual Conference
 - <https://conference.ahima.org/>
- 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—5th 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, 10th Anniversary of the TQIP Program