The following communication highlights recent activity from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on July 12, 2019. PTSF staff and the Board of Directors wish to thank each trauma center—and trauma care provider—for their ongoing commitment to the care of injured patients. You advance our mission and vision every day! If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact Juliet Altenburg, MSN, RN—Executive Director.

**GOVERNOR WOLF SIGNS TRAUMA LEGISLATION**
Submitted by Juliet Altenburg, PTSF Executive Director

July 2, 2019—Governor Tom Wolf signed HB 786 into law providing funding for rural trauma centers, as well as ensuring optimal trauma center placement for the citizens of the Commonwealth. HB 786 was the culmination of discussions that started more than ten years ago by the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) on how to assure injured patients in Pennsylvania get the best care possible. HB 786 will be renamed, Act 54 of 2019.

Highlights include providing funding for Level IV trauma centers in the rural counties of the Commonwealth, changing the volume requirement of Level II trauma centers to mirror that of Level I trauma centers, and assuring appropriate distribution of trauma centers. Future Level I, II, and III trauma centers in Pennsylvania will now need to be 25 miles away from each other or there must be evidence of double the required patient volumes in trauma centers within 25 miles of the locale of a pursuing hospital. This important requirement will avoid depletion of patient volumes by high-level trauma centers situated in close proximity to one another, which research shows negatively impacts patient outcomes.

Many thanks are extended to PTSF Board Member/Pennsylvania House of Representatives Majority Leader, Bryan Cutler, representing the 100th Legislative District, who shepherded this bill and made it a reality. Additional thanks are extended to the PTSF Board, the PTSF Ad Hoc Trauma System Development Committee (TSDC), and TSDC Chairman Dr. Fred Rogers from Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health whose research with Michael Horst, PhD, on geospatial placement of trauma centers in Pennsylvania, provided significant evidence for the changes.

Next steps are the finalization of a waiver policy by the PTSF Board of Directors, as well as a statewide notification to all trauma centers and stakeholders. July 16, 2019, PTSF issued a statewide press release announcing the signing of the HB 786. Type in “HB786” in the search field to find HB 786 on the state’s website.

**TRAUMA REGISTRY & TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

If you have questions related to the trauma registry and technology enhancements listed in this update, please contact Lyndsey Diehl, Manager of Trauma Data Quality.

**2019 Mid-Year Software Updates**

Digital Innovation staff is currently working on a “mid-year” patch to enhance both your 2019 Collector and 2019 V5 Outcomes software. This patch is expected to be available to you by the end of August 2019. More information regarding the patch and installation instructions will be sent at a later date.
Registry Project Updates

- **COLLECTOR™ Transition to V5 Trauma Registry Software**
  The COLLECTOR™ transition to the V5 platform is in the works! The target rollout date is July 1, 2020, and it is our hope that for January 1, 2021 all PA trauma center admissions are on the V5 platform. Staff members from Digital Innovations, Inc. (DI) will present information, including a timeline and next steps, on Friday, October 18, 2019 during the PTSF Fall Conference.

- **Driller™**
  PTSF is excited for PA trauma centers to utilize Driller™ technology in the near future! This tool will allow centers to efficiently “drill-down” or mine PTOS data in a number of ways. The target “go-live” date is September 1, 2019. DI staff members will present a Hands-on, Driller™ education on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 as a pre-conference session during the PTSF Fall Conference. Go to the PTSF website to [pre-register](http://ptsf.org), or to find additional information. The course fee covers the cost of providing computers for attendees during this session, as well as beverage breaks and a networking luncheon.

- **Registry Educational Software**
  Development of the Registry Educational Software is underway! This software is a free tool for PA trauma centers to use 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. It is our hope that your 2020 software package will include this software. DI staff will present information regarding this software and its functionality on Friday, October 18, 2019 during the PTSF Fall Conference. In 2020, hands-on educational sessions will occur.

Updated 2019 PTOS Manual and Facility Lists

An updated 2019 PTOS Manual and “PTOS/Collector Change Document” is located on the Registry tab of the PTSF website ([http://ptsf.org/registry/resources](http://ptsf.org/registry/resources)).

Clarifications were made to the following:
- Age (Auto calculation)
- Place of Injury of the External Cause Code – ICD-10-CM Specify

All facility lists have also been updated. The facility lists can be found on the Registry tab of the PTSF website under Resources. If you are unable to locate a specific facility, please contact PTSF registry staff and a number will be assigned for you.

Q2 2019 Quarterly Reports

2019 Quarter 2 quarterly reports are currently being processed at the central site. These reports will be sent to each accredited trauma center by August 31, 2019.

Registry FAQ’s

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

TRAUMA REGISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE
Simon Lampard, MD, FACS—Committee Chairman
Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN, CCRN-K—Committee Vice Chairman
Lyndsey Diehl, RHIA, CHDA, CSTR—Staff Liaison

The Trauma Registry Committee and the PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes to PTOS/Collector. These changes are effective January 1, 2020 and will be reflected in the 2020 PTOS Manual and 2020 Collector software. All changes to PTOS/Collector for 2020 admissions will be discussed in detail at the PTSF Fall Conference on October 18, 2019.

1. The Date Entered ED and Time Entered ED elements changed to Date Entered ED/Hospital and Time Entered ED/Hospital.
   a. Change definition for Date Entered ED/Hospital to: “Record the date patient entered the Emergency Department (ED)/Hospital.”
   b. Change definition for Time Entered ED/Hospital to: “Record the military time patient entered the Emergency Department (ED)/Hospital.”
   c. Add a bullet to Time Entered ED element additional information stating, “If the patient was brought to the ED, enter time patient arrived at ED. If patient was directly admitted to the hospital, enter time patient was admitted to the hospital.”
2. Paralyzing Drugs to be pulled out from the GCS Qualifiers element and made its own separate element.

The next Trauma Registry Committee meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2019. Please send any requests for discussion to Lyndsey Diehl, staff liaison.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION UPDATE
Charles Barbera, MD, MBA, FACEP, FAAEM—Committee Chairman
Amy Krichten, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN—Staff Liaison
Darlene Gondell, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

The Standards Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes and clarifications to the Standards of Accreditation. All changes are effective immediately, as they lessen requirements or provide clarification, unless otherwise noted.

Standard 10: Physicians

- Clarification of requirements for Other Surgical Services
  o Regardless of the surgical or admission capabilities, every trauma center must immediately evaluate, stabilize, treat and if indicated transfer trauma patients that exceed the capabilities of the trauma center. Every trauma center must have transfer plans in place defining cases that exceed the capabilities of the trauma center and necessitate transfer.
Standard 11: Advanced Practitioners

- ACLS requirements for Advanced Practitioners (AP). Compliance is expected 1/1/2021.
  - AP’s defined as first responders in any phase of care must have ACLS in adult centers and PALS in pediatric centers (or equivalent course)
  - This includes subspecialist AP’s defined as first responders for subspecialties.

Standard 14: Emergency Medical Services

- Recommendation that the trauma center should collaborate with EMS to adopt a universal format for the verbal transfer of care of the trauma patient from EMS to the Trauma Center.
  - DMIST communication is a suggested format to use.

Standard 17: Operating Room

- Adult Level I-III trauma centers will require End-Tidal CO2 Determination equipment. Compliance is expected 05.01.2020.
- Adult Level IV trauma centers will require Monitoring equipment. Compliance is expected 05.01.2020.

The revised Standards of Accreditation are available on the PTSF web site (dated 08.01.2019) with additional details noted in Appendix E: Revision Log.

The next Standards Committee meeting occurs in October. Any requests for topic discussion (for example, suggested new standard or clarification of current standard) must be submitted by September 1, 2019.

- PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT & PATIENT SAFETY (PIPS) -

Performance Improvement Leadership Team & PTSF Staff Liaisons

- Forrest Fernandez, MD, FACS
- Denise Torres, MD, FACS
- Donna Titus, MSN, RN, CEN
- John Gallagher, DNP, RN, CCRN-K, CCNS, TCN
- Terry Snavely, MSN, RN, TCN—Staff Liaison
- Gaby Wenger, RHIT, CPC, CAISS—Staff Liaison

PIPS Committee

In response to the ACS recent announcement that the use of a National Quality Forum endorsed taxonomy classification system would no longer be a “strategic” goal nor an ACS requirement, Donald Jenkins, MD (previous ACS PIPS Chairman) has been contacted to obtain his recommendations on the trauma taxonomy definitions that would be of value when classifying care opportunities. The PIPS PaV5 Outcomes work group and Outcomes leadership will work with Dr. Jenkins to review current classification systems, and include PA trauma staff before making final changes. PTSF gratefully acknowledges the support of Dr. Jenkins with these efforts.
**PaV5 Outcomes Work Group**

**Reminder:** As of January 1, 2019, Timeliness of Trauma Outcomes Submissions monitoring became effective. Trauma Centers have 90 days after patient death to complete and submit their Outcomes death evaluations to the PTSF Outcomes Central Site. After trouble shooting this process with Digital Innovation, Inc. (DI) and several trauma centers, the PTSF staff requested that DI create better tracking tools. As a result, two new reports have been added to the Outcomes Report Writer software to help identify the timeliness of submission and which death cases have been submitted to the Outcomes Central Site. These are titled, “TIMELINESS STATS” and “TRANSFER_LOG” found under the “User” of the standard report. The Timeliness Report includes Facility Name/Trauma #/Arrival Date/Time/Death Date/Initial Closed Date/Initial Transfer Date/Days from Death until Transfer. The Transfer Log has a list of all patients submitted to the Outcomes Central Site.

**POPIMS/Outcomes Central Site Data**

At the June PTSF Mini-Conference PA TQIP Collaborative meeting, Terry Snavely presented on the topic of “Geriatric Focused Outcomes” involving the TQIP, PTOS and Outcomes Central Site databases. A review and analysis of the data revealed that even though PA has a high number of geriatrics as compared to other states, there is a lower risk adjusted mortality rate that makes PA a high performer when compared nationally with other TQIP trauma centers. To identify PA opportunities in care, it was noted that there is a higher number of occurrences in the geriatric population. PA trauma center determinations revealed that these were preventable. The group was asked to consider working on standardizing best geriatric practices to prevent functional decline, which could be implemented at all trauma center levels. Additionally, incorporating a consistent statewide frailty-scoring tool into the trauma registry software was discussed. This would assist in the identification of high-risk geriatric patients. There was overwhelming support for this initiative and it will be taken through the PIPS and Outcomes committees for development.

**Key Components of Geriatric Practice Management Guideline:**

- Ensure early mobilization: Ambulation within 48 hours of admission such as a Mobility Maintenance process/procedure. (Avoid high dependency on PT alone.)
- Standardized Tools to identify At Risk population (Frailty score)
- Assess for fall risk and adapt inventions
- Institute aspiration precautions:
  - HOB elevated at all times with repositioning
  - Sitting upright for eating and 2 hours post meals
  - Evaluate swallowing
- Institute incentive spirometry and deep breathing (Evaluate efficacy. Can they do this right?)
- Institute patient handwashing every 2-4 hours and before meals
- Place on bowel regimen (especially if given opiates)
- Meticulous attention to pharmacological regimes
- Non-pharmacological delirium prevention
- Perform screening for skin integrity – Braden or Norton assessment within 24 hours and daily documentation of checks
PA TQIP Collaborative Committee

As the PA TQIP Collaborative benchmarking reports indicate, and statewide collaboration has validated, Pennsylvania has opportunities to standardize VTE prophylaxis strategies. Actions to accomplish this goal will be discussed and approved at the in-person PA-TQIP Collaborative meeting. The meeting is scheduled on October 16, 2019 (2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) during the PTSF Fall Conference. The following preliminary actions were drafted:

- Divide volunteers into five subgroups: Orthopedics, Neurosurgical, Solid Injury, Pediatric, and Alternatives/monitoring (when no prophylaxis can be administered due to contraindications).
- A lead will be designated to disseminate information, coordinate discussions, and establish work group consensus of recommendations. Recommendations will then be communicated with designated PA TQIP Leadership and the PTSF staff liaison to draft the final guideline.
- A PA TQIP Leadership/PTSF liaison will be assigned to each group. The liaison will be available as needed to clarify expectations, and receive each group update at monthly intervals. These should be received by email or direct communication, no later than August 25, and September 25.
- Materials: Obtain and distribute PA Trauma facility VTE Guidelines, Dr. Fernandez VTE presentation, and references to work groups.

Outcomes Committee

Denise Torres, MD, Committee Chair, is leading extensive discussions regarding the strategic goal of creating a guideline that incorporates metrics to provide guidance to the PTSF Board of Directors in making decisions to extend an accreditation cycle from three years to four years. Several preliminary areas of discussion include:

- Determine transparent eligibility requirements to qualify for the extended 4-year accreditation cycle such as the presence of a Significant Issue.
- Determine if the weight of Significant Issues were equal in importance. Obtain a list of 2017 and 2018 “Significant Issues” and rank issues that influence patient care delivery. If a center has one of these issues, the center may not qualify for the extended cycle.
- Outcomes members will consider what high performing centers data might look like. Metrics sources could include comparable state data (PTOS data) or national data (NTDB/TQIP)

The goal is to present a proposal for consideration to the PTSF Board of Directors at their December 5 meeting.
PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS & TRAUMA CENTER INFORMATION

THE COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma (PACOT)

Annual Resident Trauma Paper Competition—the deadline for submission of abstracts for the Resident Trauma Paper Competition is **August 19, 2019**. In order to submit abstracts, or to review submission criteria, go to the PTSF website homepage, or CLICK HERE. Do miss this excellent opportunity to present your research.

Pennsylvania Trauma Nurse Advisory Council (PATNAC)

PATNAC is pleased to announce the 11th Annual Maj. John P. Pryor, MD, FACS Memorial Lecturer. This Keynote address features the topic “Born to Serve: I Am All In,” presented by Betsy Seislove, MSN, RN—Sr. Regional Care Director, Spectrum Retirement Communities. Betsy is no stranger to Pennsylvania and our trauma system; we are happy to welcome her home.

Betsy currently serves as the Senior Director of Resident Care for Spectrum Retirement Communities, Denver, Colorado. She has oversite of 13, Independent, Assisted and Memory care facilities where she supports clinical and quality process improvement while adopting evidenced practices and developing clinical metrics for outcome measurement. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Vice President for Trauma Services with the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) in Nashville, Tennessee. Her responsibilities included assisting HCA verified, upgrading or inaugural trauma programs with accreditation processes, standards of optimal care along with research and evidenced-based practice throughout the enterprise. Prior to this position, she was the Director of the Trauma Program at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Betsy is a Past President of the Society of Trauma Nurses, and previous chair of the ATCN committee and neuro significant interest group. She has served on several local and national boards of directors including the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF), and member of the EAST Foundation Board. She has presented locally, regionally, nationally and internationally on various trauma topics.

Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

July 1, 2019—the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is pleased to provide this updated version of the Statewide ALS and BLS protocols. A few items that affect trauma centers include the addition of the DMIST program, as well as the use of Ketamine as an option for use in musculoskeletal trauma.
AMERICAN TRAUMA SOCIETY – PA DIVISION (ATSPA)

Advanced Burn Life Support Certified Instructor Training Opportunity

The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is looking to partner with interested nurses and physicians in facilitating ABLS Provider Courses throughout Pennsylvania.

To achieve this objective, the ATSPA is offering ABLS instructor certification training, free of charge, to ATS Institutional Member hospital nurses and physicians, this Fall. Not sure if your institution is a member? Check here! The ATSPA will cover the cost of instructor certification training and travel of interested individuals, providing the individual agrees to instruct up to (8) one-day ABLS Provider Courses.

To be eligible for this partnership, interested individuals must be: (1) an Institutional Member of the American Trauma Society, (2) affiliated with a Pennsylvania burn center, and (3) able and willing to instruct up to (8) one-day ABLS Provider Courses. For each ABLS Provider Course taught, each instructor will receive an honorarium as well as reimbursement for ABLS class travel and meals.

For more information, please contact Kim Nunemaker, ATSPA Educational Program & Event Coordinator, at (717) 766-1616 or burn@atspa.org.

American Trauma Society Membership

Join 32 accredited trauma centers across the Commonwealth and become a member of the American Trauma Society (ATS) today. An ATS Institutional Membership provides your organization and up to an additional five organization staff members with professional development opportunities, information, advocacy, networking, and patient support resources.

With membership, your organization will receive the following:

- Access to FREE educational materials (PA Division)
- Grant opportunities for injury prevention in your local community (PA Division)
- Professional development opportunities: Injury Prevention Coordinator's Course, Trauma Registry Course, Trauma Program Manager Course (National)
- Training opportunities on educational programs such as Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS), Stop the Bleed (STB), etc. (PA Division)
- Weekly and monthly electronic newsletters (National and PA Division)
- Free monthly educational webinars AND access to archived webinars (National)
- Ability to connect online through Professional Groups that are specific to your member type (National)
- Legislative updates and a voice on critical state and national trauma issues (PA Division and National)

Click here to view ATS’s Pennsylvania Institutional Members, and click here to join!
PENNSYLVANIA DUI ASSOCIATION – SHARE THE KEYS SAFE DRIVING ORIENTATION

September 12, 2019—PennState Health – Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is collaborating with the PA DUI Association and NJM Insurance Group to host a Safe Driving Orientation facilitator-training program. Consider learning how to administer a successful Share the Keys (STK) program in your community.

Facilitators play two important roles in Share the Keys (STK), acting as advocates to help bring the program to their local community and presenting the orientation. Facilitators help parents and teens understand the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) process, the risks involved and how to avoid them. They also engage parents and teens by providing information, experiences and resources that will help develop safe driving skills for life. Click here to register, or for additional information contact Felicity Erni at the PA DUI Association, at 717-238-4354.

EDUCATION

PTSF ONLINE EDUCATION

PTSF Online Education is now hosted and supported by KnowledgeConnex. PTSF-sponsored educational sessions remain at no cost to PA trauma program staff.

Use the following link to access online education: https://www.elearningconnex.com/ptsf/

Once at the site, you can log in if you have previously registered for a course, or if it is your first time visiting, you can just view courses or register. Either way, use the link above. Once registered, you can log in at any time, from any location. The three most recent courses will be visible, but by clicking on “View More” all available courses will show. To register for a course, click “View Course Outline.” Click “Purchase Course” on the next page; this will take you to the registration page.

As mentioned above, all courses are free for PA Trauma members by selecting “Pennsylvania Trauma Member” under “Member Type.” Please note that at the bottom of the screen you can also register for additional courses at the same time by clicking “Attend This Session” for any other course listed. Once finished, click “Save Registrant.” You will then receive an email from KnowledgeConnex with login information to set up an account and complete their courses. You need to save and remember your login information. You will use this to access any future courses without having to go through all of these steps.

PTSF 23RD ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE & MEETING

October 1, 2019 is the deadline to register for the Fall Conference! Do not miss this opportunity for new Pre-Conference sessions, nationally recognized speakers and Best Practices in Trauma throughout the Commonwealth. October 16-18, 2019 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel. REGISTER NOW!
NEW PENNSYLVANIA TRAUMA PROGRAM LEADERSHIP COURSE OFFERED

The Pa COT invites you to attend the upcoming PTSF Fall Pre-Conference Symposium for Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators and Trauma Program Medical Directors during the PTSF Annual Fall Conference on October 16, 2019. This is a new course offering.

An experienced panel of PA Trauma Leaders will share lessons learned, as well as practical tips for advancing your trauma program. Whether you are a new or aspiring Trauma Program Manager/Coordinator, Trauma Program Medical Director or a seasoned Trauma Leader yourself, we hope you will come away with some practical tips and time-tested methods that will advance your program. This pre-conference session will begin with a morning program of “Quick-shot” presentations by our distinguished panel:

- **Common Pitfalls in Trauma Program Leadership**
  Andrew Peitzman, MD, FACS—Chief, General Surgery & UPMC Trauma Services
  The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.

- **Developing a PI Strategic Plan that Addresses Survey Feedback**
  Dee Nicholas, MSN, RN—Trauma Program Manager, UPMC Presbyterian, Pittsburgh, Pa.

- **Program Development: A Level 3 Perspective**
  David Scaff, DO, MBA, FACS—Trauma Program Medical Director
  Lehigh Valley Health Network – Lehigh Valley Hospital Pocono, East Stroudsburg, Pa.

- **Lessons Learned: A Personal Perspective**
  Patrick Kim, MD, FACS—Vice-Chief of the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery
  Penn Medicine – Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pa.

- **Preparing for Survey**
  William Hoff, MD, FACS—Trauma Program Medical Director
  Penn Highlands Dubois – Penn Highlands Healthcare, DuBois, Pa.

- **Know Your Data: Critical PI Quality Measures You Should Know like the Back of Your Hand**
  Denise M. Tones, MD, FACS—Trauma Program Medical Director
  Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa.

After a networking buffet luncheon, we will challenge the panel with case vignettes, which will put their years of experience to the test. This is sure to be an educational and entertaining portion of the program. We encourage you to prepare your own questions for the panel and to share your own lessons learned during this interactive session.

Mark your calendars for this important educational offering. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.
LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL MEETINGS

Save the Date... for upcoming events. Items in **BOLD** print are PTSF-sponsored events. As events and meeting dates are confirmed in 2019, they are added to the website calendar. If you have events that you would like to advertise on the PTSF calendar, contact Linda Stamey.

- August 29-30, 2019—ATS Injury Prevention Coordinator Course, hosted by Geisinger Holy Spirit
- **September 10, 2019**—“New” Trauma Program Manager/Coordinator, PI Coordinator Orientation Class
- September 14-19, 2019—American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Conference
- September 18-21, 2019—The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) Annual Member Meeting & Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery
- September 23-26, 2019—Digital Innovations, Inc. Annual Users Conference
- **September 27, 2019**—PTSF Board of Directors Meeting & Annual Fall Deliberations
- October 16-18, 2019—PTSF Fall Conference & PA-TQIP Collaborative Meeting
- **October 17, 2019**—PaCOT Annual Resident Trauma Paper Competition
- October 27-30, 2019—American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Scientific Assembly
- October 27-31, 2019—American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Meeting & Clinical Congress
- November 13-16, 2019—Pediatric Trauma Society Annual Meeting
- November 16-18, 2019—TQIP Annual Conference -- **PA-TQIP Collaborative Meeting**
- **December 5, 2019**—PTSF Board of Directors Meeting

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