



BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

August 15, 2018

The following communication highlights recent activity from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on July 19th. PTSF 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 each and every day! If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

JULY BOARD DELIBERATIONS: READING HOSPITAL ELEVATES TO LEVEL ONE ACCREDITATION STATUS

July 24, 2018—PTSF disseminated a state-wide [Press Release](#) in response to July Accreditation Deliberations. The press release announced that there are 40 accredited trauma centers in the Commonwealth, including Reading Hospital – Tower Health which elevates to level one trauma status on September 1, 2018. The press release highlighted the levels of trauma centers recognized in Pennsylvania and directed readers to the comprehensive listing of accredited [trauma centers](#) on the PTSF website.

The Board of Directors held annual deliberations on July 19-20, 2018. Following those discussions, PTSF staff notified trauma program staff and hospital leadership of their determination(s). Accreditation Reports were also distributed to trauma centers that underwent site survey during this spring-summer season.

September deliberations are scheduled for level four trauma centers on **Friday, September 21, 2018**.

LATE FEES ADDED TO PTSF INVOICES

Late fees will now be displayed on all PTSF invoices for all trauma center fees. The Board of Directors approved this decision at the most recent board meeting.

Annual invoices for 2019 trauma center fees will be mailed no later than November 1st and are due to PTSF no later than **January 15th**. This billing schedule is pending based upon the approval of the 2019 budget during the September PTSF board meeting. If these dates change, a state-wide notification will be sent to all Trauma Program Managers.

EMS LANGUAGE REVISION APPROVED

After over a year-long effort, the Ad Hoc Trauma Systems Development Committee (TSDC) came to a consensus regarding revisions to the language within the EMS Act that are evidence-based and assure appropriate trauma center placement within the Commonwealth moving into the future. The PTSF Board of Directors approved those proposed revisions during the July board meeting.

Educational sessions will be conducted by PTSF staff, board members, and TSDC members. These sessions will include the committee's rationale for the proposed changes and will occur for each of the organizations that hold seats on the board. PTSF Board member Representative Bryan Cutler will be spearheading the introduction of the legislation and getting the revisions incorporated into the Act and signed into law.

Proposed EMS Act Revisions Include:

- Assure optimal volumes in Level I and II trauma centers by adding language that requires that hospitals may only apply for Level I and II trauma center accreditation if they are greater than 25 miles away from a neighboring Level I, II, or III trauma center. This 25-mile restriction already exists since 2004 for hospitals applying to be Level III trauma centers.
 - Note: Already accredited Level I and II trauma centers would not be required to meet these criteria and be “grandfathered” in.
- Establish the same volume criteria for Level II trauma centers as for Level I trauma centers (600 patients) since both levels require the same optimal level of patient care.
 - Note: Currently, all Level II trauma centers accredited more than one year meet this requirement.
- Revise funding formula in EMS act to allow for reallocation of Level III trauma center undistributed money for Level IV trauma centers in rural counties as defined by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

In 2017 as part of its strategic plan, the PTSF Board of Directors approved the creation of the Ad Hoc TSDC. The committee was given the following charge: To develop an evidenced based process for trauma system development in Pennsylvania which takes into consideration proper placement of trauma centers based on needs of the population in a given region rather than the needs of individual hospitals or health systems.

The committee performed a comprehensive research review which pointed to a strong relationship between high volumes and superior patient outcomes. The studies determined that an overabundance of high level trauma centers in a region can have an adverse impact on the quality of care of injured patients due to depletions in trauma center volume which impact the trauma skills gained from frequent management of critically injured patients. This topics will be presented at the [PTSF Fall Conference](#) on October 16th.

The PTSF Board wishes to thank members of the committee for their tremendous efforts:

Non-Board Members: Fred Rogers, MD (Chairman), David Loder, Esq. (PTSF Legal Counsel), Spence Reid, MD, Andrew Peitzman, MD, Bill Schwab, MD, and Jami Zipf, RN. Board Members: Meg Ashton, RN, Charles Barbera, MD, Bill Hoff, MD, Doug Kupas, MD, John McCarthy, DO, and Doug Trostle, MD.

PTSF RESEARCH CONSULTANT APPROVED FOR TRAUMA CENTER USE

Thomas Wasser, MEd, PhD, PTSF research consultant, has been approved for use by trauma centers in 2018 who request data from the PTOS Central Site and are approved through the PTSF Research Committee.

Approval will be determined by the PTSF Trauma Research Committee during their regularly scheduled meetings and is contingent upon the following:

- The quality of the research proposal including its system wide impact
- The deadline by which the requestor needs the data
- Availability of PTSF staff to complete the request
- Availability of funds within the PTSF budget



In order to be considered for the provision of research services by Dr. Wasser, please complete a PTOS data application and agreement indicating your request within the application. The research [application](#) can be found in the Research section of the Resources area of the website.

TRAUMA REGISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE

DR. SIMON LAMPARD, MD, FACS—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
LYNDESEY DIEHL—PTSF STAFF LIAISON

The [July 2018 "Trauma Registry Update"](#) is posted to the PTSF website. This update lists the approved 2019 Collector/PTOS changes that will be presented at the 2018 [PTSF Fall Conference](#).

Conference session slides will be posted to the website by November 1, 2018. Please contact [Lyndsey Diehl](#) with any questions.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

MICHELLE FONTANA, MSN, RN—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN; DR. CHARLES BARBERA, MD, MBA FACEP, FAAEM—CO-CHAIRMAN
AMY KRICHTEN—PTSF STAFF LIAISON

The revised Standards of Accreditation are posted to the website!

The Standards Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes or clarifications to the Standards of Accreditation. All changes are effective immediately, as they lesson requirements or provide clarification, unless otherwise noted. Additional details can be found in the Standard documents located on the PTSF website.

Standard 5: Registry

- Clarification that records must be submitted within 42-days of discharge. Current verbiage states records must be abstracted; this change matches Trauma Registry Policy [TR-110](#) Timeliness of Submission to the Central Site.

Standard 8: Injury Prevention

- Clarification for SBIRT – “eligible patients are alive and participatory.”
- Stop the Bleed: Trauma Programs should offer Stop the Bleed Training Courses.

Standard 10: Physicians CME

- Physicians who maintain Board Certification in their required specialty field are NOT required to track hourly CME for trauma accreditation.
- This is not applicable to:
 - Trauma Program Medical Directors.
 - Physicians who are participating in an alternate pathway.
 - Physicians who are Board Certified in a field but not the required specialty field. For example, a physician boarded in Family Practice (in lieu of Emergency Medicine) who works in the Emergency Department.
 - Physicians who must maintain CME tracking must have 12-hours per year or 36-hours over three years.

Standard 10: Physicians

- Clarification that telemedicine, in itself, is not an acceptable method of consult. The expectation is that the specialist must be available in person at the bedside by a predetermined time when a consult is made.

Standard 11: Advanced Practitioners CME

- Tracking of Advanced Practitioner hourly CME / Continuing Education is NOT required for trauma accreditation.

Standard 17: Operating Room

- Clarification that the trauma center must define the members for minimal staffing in the operating room and define the parameters of emergent response expectations outside of the resuscitative and operative phases of care.

Standard 23: Radiology

- New policy requirement for Incidental Radiology Findings (new standard, effective June 2019).

POLICY & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

MEG ASHTON, MHA, BSN, RN, CEN—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
KEVIN BURD—PTSF STAFF LIAISON

The Policy & Procedure Committee recently completed a review of all board policies. These policies are posted to the website, including:

- [BD-105](#) Reviewing Complaints
- [BD-106](#) Conflicts of Interest
- [BD-107](#) Endorsement
- [BD-109](#) Non-Board Committee Membership
- [BD-113](#) Payments & Refunds of Fees
- [BD-114](#) PTSF Board Recognition of Committees

Policy BD-105 was revised to include language from the EMS act. BD-109 was revised to reflect current practice on how committees are structured, as well as the term limits for committee membership. Also, board members are not required to chair a non-board committee, but a representative is required to report on action items at board meetings. The other policies were only reviewed. If you have any questions, contact [Kevin Burd](#).

OUTCOMES COMMITTEE UPDATE

DR. DENISE TORRES, MD, FACS—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
TERRY SNAVELY—PTSF STAFF LIAISON

Effective January 1, 2019—a [new policy](#) was drafted by the Outcomes Committee, submitted to the Policy & Procedure Committee for review/recommendation, and approved by the Board of Directors in July 2018. The policy defines timeliness of submission to the Outcomes™ Central Site and is posted to the PTSF website.

Additionally, the committee continues work in several key-areas. For example, a PA trauma center will present at the Fall Conference their identified gaps in transfers-in greater than three hours, the development of best practice initiatives, as well as the strategies that improved outcomes. The committee continues to review “Unplanned ICU Admission” TQIP data and compares it with the entire PTOS population to identify opportunities for improvement in processes of care. This work was submitted to the ACS for consideration as a presentation at the upcoming TQIP conference.

The Outcomes Committee is the “oversight committee” and steering committee for current performance improvement and outcome activities for the PTSF. PIPS and Outcomes Committees, along with the Pa-TQIP Collaborative work in collaboration with one another. Committee membership includes Trauma Program Medical Directors, Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators, PI Coordinators and Trauma Registrars from all trauma center levels. The committee works to align with the PTSF strategic objectives.

If you have any questions, please contact [Terry Snavely](#).

PIPS COMMITTEE UPDATE

SANDI GARRETT, MSN, RN—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN; DR. DENISE TORRES, MD, FACS—VICE CHAIRMAN
TERRY SNAVELY—PTSF STAFF LIAISON

A Hands-On Pre-Conference session will be offered on October 15th prior to the start of the [PTSF Fall Conference](#) on October 16th. This 4-hour session will focus on the PAV5 software. The final hour of the session will assist users in developing Excel reports to view data. A laptop will be provided by PTSF. This session is best suited for Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators and Performance Improvement staff.

To date 40 trauma centers have installed the PAV5 software; webinars occur monthly to focus on education. As a result, a software improvement plan is in-place. The software revision and update is in the final stages of testing and should be deployed by the end of August. Additionally, the committee is working to develop and distribute a “PAV5 Outcomes Report Package” to be distributed at the same time.

In conjunction with the distribution of these two software products, Digital Innovations Inc. staff members will host two webinars:

- PAV5 Outcomes Update: Training on New Features*
 - Offered on two separate dates (the same course offering)
 - Monday, August 27, 2018 from 2-3 p.m., or
 - Wednesday, August 29, 2018 from 10-11 a.m.
- PAV5 Outcomes Report Package Training*
 - Offered on two separate dates (the same course offering)

- Wednesday, September 5, 2018 from 10-11 a.m.
- Thursday, September 6, 2018 from 2-3 p.m.

*Links to register for these sessions will be posted to the PTSF website calendar. TPMs, PI and Trauma Registry staff will be notified when the events are posted.

Work groups with defined projects continue, though new groups were added this year. For example, one workgroup is reviewing occurrences for variances in definition/interpretation by trauma centers. A second workgroup was developed to review the Application for Survey (AFS) required reporting elements and to make recommendations. The committee has also collaborated with the Trauma Registry Committee on standardized data vs. what trauma centers collect as indicators on practice management guidelines. The PIPS Committee membership includes all levels of PA Trauma Center representation with a multidisciplinary group of TMD, TPM, and PI Coordinators. This committee's goals are to work on the fundamental building blocks necessary to establish a robust standardized statewide performance improvement process.

If you have any questions, please contact [Terry Snavely](#).

PA-TQIP COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

FORREST FERNANDEZ, MD, FACS; DENISE TORRES, MD, FACS; DONNA TITUS, MSN, RN, CEN—COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN
TERRY SNAVELY & LYNDSEY DIEHL—PTSF STAFF LIAISONS

On June 19, 2018, the PA-TQIP Collaborative convened at the 2nd Annual Spring Mini-Conference. ACS TQIP Medical Director, Avery Nathans, MD was the featured speaker. Dr. Nathans reviewed the TQIP National Update and its impact on Pennsylvania. His [presentation](#) is posted to the website.

2018 Activities

- Unplanned ICU Admission TQIP data will be compared with the entire PTOS population to identify any opportunities for improvement in care processes. This work was submitted to the ACS for consideration as a presentation at the upcoming TQIP conference: "Creating a Culture of Pulmonary Hygiene to Prevent Pneumonia in the Traumatically Injured Patient Population at a Level 2 Rural Trauma Center," presented by L. LaRock, RN, BSN, CCRN, PHRN, Trauma Program Manager, Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pa.
- UTI/CAUTI Performance Improvement initiative, presented by D. Torres, MD, Trauma Program Medical Director, Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa.
- Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections Initiative, presented by T. Snavely, MSN, RN, PTSF Manager of Performance Improvement, featuring the HOUDINI protocol—an evidence-based, nurse driven urinary catheter removal algorithm.

Scheduled Meetings

- October 15, 2018—as part of the Pre-Conference day at the [PTSF Fall Conference](#), registration is required.
- November 16-19, 2018—TQIP Annual Scientific Meeting, Anaheim, California. The PA-TQIP Collaborative is scheduled to meet during breakfast on Saturday, November 17th (7:15 – 8:15 a.m.). All attendees affiliated with an enrolled Collaborative hospital will have the option to sign up for their Collaborative breakfast meeting at the time of registration, either online or onsite.

The purpose of PA-TQIP Collaborative is to improve the overall quality of care in trauma centers across the State of Pennsylvania. The PA TQIP Collaborative Committee welcomes participation from all accredited PA Trauma Centers. Committee membership is comprised of up to three staff from each Trauma Program. Committee participation is voluntary but highly encouraged to maximize collaboration with data sharing, outcomes, processes of care, and best practices for trauma patients.

If you have any questions, please contact [Terry Snavely](#).

FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS LIVE

The link to [register](#) for the PTSF Fall Conference and to book hotel rooms is LIVE on the PTSF website.

Many sessions were chosen by PTSF because of changes in Standards, strategic plan initiatives, policy and/or practice. Standing sessions highlight Trauma Research, TQIP, Performance Improvement and Trauma Registry. A few remaining sessions will be determined by the Conference & Education Committee in the coming weeks.

Mark your calendars . . .

Monday, October 15th -- Pre-Conference Sessions:

- AAAM AIS08 Coding Course—this is a Standards requirement for Trauma Registry staff.
- Hands-On PAV5 & Excel Session—this course is designed for TPMs and PI staff. One laptop will be provided for each trauma program, pursuing and accredited (two for trauma centers with combined adult/pediatric trauma programs).
- PA-TQIP Collaborative

Tuesday, October 16th

- Annual PTSF Update, 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, Trauma Research, PaCOT Trauma Resident Paper Competition, Performance Improvement, Stop the Bleed, Committee meetings . . . and more!

Wednesday, October 17th

- 10th Annual Maj. John P. Pryor, MD, FACS Memorial Lecture presented by John Fildes, MD, FACS, FCCM (Hon)
- A Keynote Sessions presented by Joseph V. Sakran, MD, MPA, MPH
- "Bleeding Kills: Toward Zero Preventable Deaths," presented by Andrew Peitzman, MD, FACS
- Sessions specific to pursuing level 3 and 4 trauma centers
- Trauma Registry Track
- Annual COLLECTOR™ Update
- Trauma Program Leadership Forum and HAP Legislative Update

NEW FOR 2018: [Submit Abstracts Online](#) for the **PaCOT Resident Trauma Paper Competition**. The link is posted to the PTSF website homepage. Click on the button for further details related to submission. If you have questions, contact [Kevin Burd](#).

OUR PARTNERS . . . OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Posted to the website, in June 2018 Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) developed an [Interfacility Resource Document](#). The document was produced in collaboration with Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians.

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown, Pa. has developed a series of trauma-related [podcasts](#) for their staff and have offered to share them with you. There is no fee associated. To date, these 15-minute education sessions cover topics such as Burns, Hypothermia, MRI with Pacers, PIC protocol and Morel Lavallee Lesions.

PTSF WEBSITE CALENDAR

The PTSF website calendar is updated on a weekly basis. This includes PTSF-sponsored events, as well as trauma center events, Stakeholder meetings and national conferences. If you have an event to post, contact [Linda Stamey](#).

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The [2017 Annual Report](#) is now posted to the PTSF website. This report highlights PTSF's mission, vision and ongoing strategic efforts to improve the trauma system within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.