



Billing for Level IV Trauma Activations





Goal

Develop trauma activation fee and ensure proper billing and coding is being met in order to maximize reimbursement from payer sources for trauma activation and/or critical care codes



Trauma Activation Fee

- Must be state designated trauma center to charge activation fee
- Utilized for patients who meet trauma activation, and meet field triage criteria
- Must have pre-hospital notification prior to patients arrival



Trauma Activation Fee

- May not be used for patients meeting trauma activation criteria who arrive by means other than EMS (*must receive prior notification from EMS)
- Document the activation in the patients medical record:
 - pre-arrival notification time
 - reason for activation
 - provider name and the time notified



Types of Admission/Visit

1	Emergency	The patient required immediate medical intervention as a result of severe, life threatening or potentially disabling conditions. Generally, the patient was admitted through the emergency room.
2	Urgent	The patient required immediate attention for the care and treatment of a physical or mental disorder. Generally, the patient was admitted to the first available and suitable accommodation.
3	Elective	The patient's condition permitted adequate time to schedule the availability of a suitable accommodation.
4	Newborn	For newborns
5	Trauma Center	Visits to a trauma center/hospital as licensed or designated by the state or local government authority authorized to do so, or as verified by the American College of Surgeons and involving a trauma activation.
9	Information Not Available	The hospital cannot classify the type of admission. This code is used only on rare occasions.



Trauma Center Levels

- 681 Level I
- 682 Level II
- 683 Level III
- 684 Level IV
- 689 Other trauma
- Trauma Activation fees are charged whether the patient is admitted, discharged, transferred or dies
- Fees are charged in addition to ED level charges



ED Charges

- 45X is your ED level charges
- X is based on ESI Triage Scale 1-5
- You can bill trauma and ED charges on the same bill



Critical Care Charges

- The following services are included in critical care:
 - cardiac output measurements
 - pulse oximetry
 - chest x-rays
 - ABG's, ECG's, BP, lab data
 - Gastric tube insertion
 - transcutaneous pacing
 - ventilator management
 - peripheral vascular access procedures



Critical care charges

Total Duration of Critical Care Codes

less than 30 minutes	appropriate E/M codes
30-74 minutes (30 minutes - 1 hr. 14 min.)	99291 X 1
75-104 minutes (1 hr. 15 min. - 1 hr. 44 min.)	99291 X 1 AND 99292 X 1
105-134 minutes (1 hr. 45 min. - 2 hr. 14 min.)	99291 X 1 AND 99292 X 2
135-164 minutes (2 hr. 15 min. - 2 hr. 44 min.)	99291 X 1 AND 99292 X 3
165-194 minutes (2 hr. 45 min. - 3 hr. 14 min.)	99291 X 1 AND 99292 X 4
195 minutes or longer (3 hr. 15 min. - etc.)	99291 and 99292 as appropriate (see illustrated reporting examples above)



CC Documentation Requirements

- The critical nature of the patient's condition should be accurately documented to support the medical necessity of the 1:1 care
- Complexity of medical decision making
- Patient assessment
- Family discussions with details
- **Total time spent**



Trauma patient identification

- EHR reports
- Trauma Flow Sheet
- ED LOG
- Admission Reports
- Transfer Reports
- Have reports built for you



Developing a Trauma Activation Fee

- Trauma activation dollar amount is non-existent
- Calculate your own trauma activation fee based on the available resources
- CMS/Medicare will pay a set flat fee
- Private insurers may pay more if the correct billing procedures are followed
- Don't forget to involve your center's finance department when calculating fees



Other costs

- TPMD salary (budgeted trauma hours)
- TPM/TPC salary
- Registrar salary
- Equipment costs
- Site survey fees
- Registry fees



Levels of Activation

Provider	Alert	Evaluation
EM physician	X	X
Primary trauma nurse	X	X
Nursing Supervisor	X	Provider discretion
EM Tech / Unit clerk	X	Provider discretion
X-Ray	X	x
Respiratory Therapy	X	Provider discretion
Security	*	Provider discretion
Advance Practitioner	*	X
EMS personnel	*	*
Lab	*	Provider discretion
	See below	

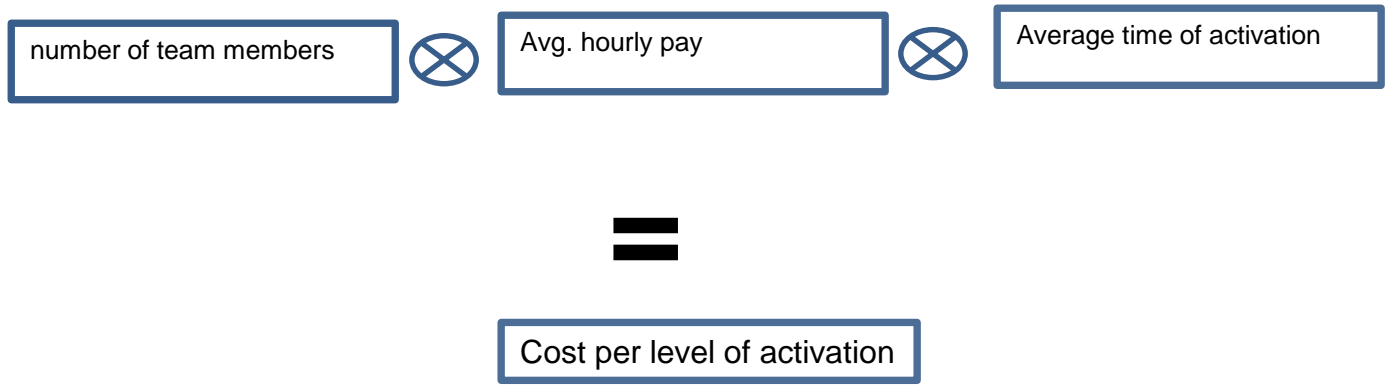
Lab response: Trauma Alert for the patient in route to the Emergency Department the Lab Technician will immediately secure One (1) unit of O Negative blood and begin the process of emergency release of that unit



Calculating the cost

Trauma Team Members	How many?	Hourly pay
	Total # of team members	Avg. hourly pay

Average time (in hours) a trauma response takes:





Sample Calculating the cost

Trauma Team Members	How many?	Hourly pay
Provider	1	225
RN	2	85
Ancillary staff (lab, x-ray)	3	100.00
	Total # of team members	Avg. hourly pay \$315.00

Average time (in hours) a trauma response takes:

1.2 hrs

$$6 \otimes 52.50 \otimes 1.2$$

=

\$315



Questions

