

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 5, 2012

Dear Administrator:

As you are aware, the Department has decided to adopt the American College of Surgeon's Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) standards and verification process for the State's trauma system. Based on the recommendations of the State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC), those centers currently designated in the State as either Regional or Area trauma centers, or those hospitals entering the trauma system for the first time, will be required to request a consultative visit (if considering this as a first step) by **May 10, 2013** and request a verification visit two **(2) years** from receipt of the consultative visit report. Those centers who do not request a consultative or verification visit within these time frames will be de-designated and will no longer be considered as New York State trauma centers.

Ultimately, only those hospitals designated as Level I, II or III trauma centers following verification by the ACS-COT, will receive and treat those patients who have been traumatically injured. Those hospitals who meet Level IV criteria will provide initial evaluation and assessment of injured patients, but will most likely transfer to higher level trauma centers. The ACS-COT is set to release the new Level IV criteria in October of this year. It is expected that all designated trauma centers will participate in the New York State Trauma Registry (NYSTR) by entering requested data for their trauma patients.

As has been stated previously, if your hospital currently participates in the State trauma system, but your ability to meet ACS-COT standards would result in a change to your current designation, this should not preclude you from continuing to participate in the trauma system, as the Department's goal is to strengthen and broaden participation.

Until the current regulations governing trauma are repealed, 708(5) remains in effect. Regulatory change will take time. As 708(5) was modeled after ACS-COT standards of the time, moving towards ACS-COT verification will indirectly keep trauma centers in compliance with 708(5) as they strive to achieve national standards of trauma care.

Molly Lozada, the administrator for the verification process at the ACS-COT, can be reached at (312) 202-5456 or at mlozada@facs.org to schedule a consultative or verification visit, or to answer any specific questions regarding the ACS-COT standards you may have.

Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Tripoli, Trauma Program Manager, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, at (518) 402-0996, Ext. 2.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Cook
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Health Systems Management