



## TRAUMA SYSTEM DESIGN

---

### I. AUTHORITY:

*Health and Safety Code 1798.165. Local emergency medical services (EMS) agencies may designate trauma facilities as part of their trauma care system pursuant to the regulations promulgated by the authority.*

*The health facility shall only be designated to provide the level of trauma care and service for which it is qualified and which is included within the system implemented by the agency.*

*Title 22 (T-22), 100254: The local EMS agency which has implemented a trauma care system shall:*

- *Establish policies and/or procedures to assure compliance of the trauma system with the provisions of the law, at a minimum; and*
- *Submit its trauma system plan to the EMS Authority for approval.*

The local EMS Agency may specify additional and/or more rigorous trauma system and/or trauma center requirements than those specified in the law exclusive of the definitions in the law.

*After approval of a trauma system plan, the local EMS agency shall submit to the EMS Authority for approval any significant changes to that trauma system plan prior to the implementation of the changes. In those instances where a delay in approval would adversely impact the current level of trauma care, the local EMS Agency may institute the changes and then submit the changes to the EMS Authority for approval within thirty (30) days of their implementation.*

### II. APPLICATION:

Title 22, 100253: (a) A local EMS agency which has implemented or plans to implement a trauma care system shall develop a written trauma care system plan that includes policies and/or procedures to assure compliance of the trauma system with the provisions of this Chapter.

- A local EMS agency may specify additional requirements in addition to those specified in this Chapter.
  - A local EMS agency that implements a trauma care system on or after the effective date of this Chapter shall submit its trauma system plan to the EMS Authority and have it approved prior to implementation.
- (d) A local EMS agency that has implemented a trauma system prior to the effective date of the revisions to this Chapter shall submit its updated trauma system plan to the EMS Authority within two (2) years of the effective date of the revisions to this Chapter which is August 12, 1999.
- (e) The EMS Authority shall notify the local EMS agency submitting its trauma care system plan within fifteen (15) days of receiving the plan that:
- its plan has been received, and
- (2) it contains or does not contain the information requested in Section 100255 of this Chapter.
- (f) The EMS Authority shall:
- notify the local EMS agency either of approval or disapproval of its trauma system plan within sixty (60) days of receipt of the plan; and





## TRAUMA SYSTEM DESIGN

---

- provide written notification of approval or the reasons for disapproval of a trauma system plan.
- (g) If the EMS Authority disapproves a trauma system plan, the local EMS agency shall have six (6) months from the date of notification of the disapproval to submit a revised trauma system plan which conforms to this Chapter or to appeal the decision to the Commission on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) which shall make a determination within four (4) months of receipt of the appeal. If a revised trauma system plan is approved by the EMS Authority the local EMS agency shall begin implementation of the plan within six (6) months of its approval.
- (h) If the EMS Authority determines that a local EMS agency has failed to implement the trauma system in accordance with the approved plan, the approval of the plan may be withdrawn. The local EMS agency may appeal the decision to the Commission on EMS, which shall make a determination within six (6) months of the appeal.
- After approval of a trauma system plan, the local EMS agency shall submit to the EMS Authority for approval any significant changes to that trauma system plan prior to the implementation of the changes. In those instances where a delay in approval would adversely impact the current level of trauma care, the local EMS agency may institute the changes and then submit the changes to the EMS Authority for approval within thirty (30) days of their implementation.
  - The local EMS agency shall submit a trauma system status report as part of its annual EMS Plan update. The report shall address, at a minimum, the status of trauma plan goals and objectives.
  - No health care facility shall advertise in any manner or otherwise hold themselves out to be a trauma center unless they have been so designated by the local EMS agency, in accordance with this Chapter.
  - No provider of prehospital care shall advertise in any manner or otherwise hold itself out to be affiliated with the trauma system or a trauma center unless they have been so designated by the local EMS agency, in accordance with this Chapter.

### III. CRITERIA:

*T-22, 100254: A local EMS agency that plans to implement or modify a trauma system shall include with the trauma plan, a description of the rationale used for trauma system design planning for number and location of trauma centers including:*

- *projected trauma patient volume and projected number and level of trauma centers necessary to provide access to trauma care;*
- (A) *No more than one (1) Level I or II trauma center shall be designated for each 350,000 population within the service area.*
- (B) *Where geography and population density preclude compliance with subsection (a)(1)(A), exemptions may be granted by the EMS Authority with the concurrence of the Commission on EMS on the basis of documented local needs.*
- (2) *resource availability to meet staffing requirements for trauma centers;*
- *transport times;*
  - *distinct service areas; and*
  - *coordination with neighboring trauma systems.*

