

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Designation of a Trauma Center

POLICY NO: T-710

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DATE: July 1, 2021

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798.164 and 1798.165.

I. PURPOSE

To define the process and procedure for designating a Trauma Center.

II. POLICY

A. The need for additional designated Trauma Centers shall be assessed by the County of San Diego (CoSD), Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This assessment will include but not be limited to:

1. Geographic locations
2. Prehospital transport times
3. Projected trauma patient volume
4. Projected population growth for trauma catchment
5. Current system impact
6. Hospital services available for trauma care
7. Pre-Hospital out of service/out of district times

B. CoSD Board of Supervisors designates all trauma centers, including their designated levels. A new trauma center may receive a temporary designation from the CoSD BOS, for a specified period of time, until a verification survey by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Committee on Trauma can be obtained. **A temporary designation will not exceed a two year period.**

C. Each Trauma Center shall pay the designation fee annually as described in County Administrative Code Section 254 and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

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- D. Each Trauma Center shall meet the criteria set forth in the Trauma Center Statement of Work and demonstrate a continuous ability and commitment to comply with policies, procedures, and protocols developed by CoSD EMS.
- E. Each Trauma Center shall undergo ongoing performance evaluations based upon the Trauma Center Statement of Work. A full verification review will be done every 3 three years. Results of the evaluation shall be made available to the trauma center.
- F. All designated Trauma Centers shall participate in a performance improvement process per the CoSD Quality Assurance Plan.

III. PROCEDURE

Management of County identified need for additional trauma centers

- A. If the CoSD EMS determines there is a need for an additional trauma center, EMS will develop and distribute a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Trauma Center Designation.
- B. The RFP process will follow established county guidelines.
 - a. Trauma Center level designation will not exceed the verified level awarded by the American College of Surgeons
- C. CoSD trauma centers will not advertise their level to be anything different than the County designated level.