

Trauma Level Designation

Currently all but one facility in North Dakota has an existing trauma level designation. The six largest facilities in the state continue to all be verified Level II facilities by American College of Surgeons (ACS). Of the remaining 38 ND hospital, all but 1 has a current trauma level IV or V designation. One facility in South Dakota and one facility in Minnesota are also designated within our trauma system. 20 of these facilities are scheduled for either full site visits or focus site visits in 2013. The primary compliance issue that we are seeing is related to the performance improvement program and assuring that any issues identified are followed up on to in a loop closure manner to prevent reoccurrence. We are seeing this issue becoming more challenging for facilities with the increased use of locum providers in the state and assuring that issues are brought back to everyone involved in the care continuum. The one facility who is not currently trauma level designated is compliant with trauma registry submission. We continue to work with them, encouraging them to become re-designated. We continue to work with facilities that have questions or concerns regarding their trauma level designation providing guidance and education as there is frequent turn over to trauma staff within the state.

Trauma System Plan

The State Trauma Committee continues to work on a long term plan for the State Trauma System. Looking at areas such as leadership, injury prevention and control, emergency-disaster preparedness, pre-hospital care and transport, comprehensive care – trauma centers, definitive care – medical rehab, evaluation, quality management and performance improvement, regional system evaluation, trauma registry and education - recruitment – staffing. The Committee hopes to identify goals, time frames for implementation, challenges and funding implications for each of these focus areas.