

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 331
Subject	Trauma Facility Designation	Page 1 of 3
References	California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Social Security Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Chapter 7. Trauma Care Systems	Effective 11/01/86

**I. POLICY**

Trauma Centers for the Central California EMS Region are designated by the Local EMS Agency based upon the need for local and regional EMS trauma care services.

**II. DESIGNATED TRAUMA CENTERS**

The following hospitals have been designated as Trauma Centers:

Trauma Center	Level of Designation	Date of Original Designation
Community Regional Medical Center	Level I Trauma Center	June 19, 1984
Kaweah Health Medical Center	Level III Trauma Center	January 26, 2010
Valley Children's Hospital	Level II Pediatric Trauma Center	February 1, 2016

**III. PROCEDURE FOR DESIGNATION**

- A. The EMS Agency shall develop and update a plan for the provision of trauma care within the four-county region. This plan shall minimally address the provision of trauma care services, triage mechanisms for patient routing, the number and type of trauma hospitals needed for local and/or regional trauma care needs, and the evaluation process for the trauma system.
- B. The Regional Trauma Audit Committee will formalize recommendations to the EMS Agency concerning all aspects of the trauma system, including the number and type of trauma hospitals needed for effective system operation.
- C. Any hospital wishing to gain a trauma designation shall notify the EMS Agency, in writing, of its intent to seek trauma center designation. This documentation shall include the hospital's justification, plan, proposed trauma patient volume, and anticipated timetable for implementation.

Approved By EMS Director	<b>DANIEL J. LYNCH</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision  <b>04/25/2023</b>
EMS Medical Director	<b>JIM ANDREWS, M.D.</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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- D. Prior to designation as a trauma center, the hospital shall submit to the EMS Agency:
  - 1. The Application for Trauma Designation with required documents.
  - 2. A copy of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) Consultative Visit if done prior to designation.
  - 3. Documentation that the Trauma Center Standards in Policy 333 have been met.
- E. Applications shall be reviewed for their compliance with the State of California, local regulations and their impact on the local trauma system. The Regional Trauma Audit Committee, Regional Medical Control Committee, and each Emergency Medical Care Committee from each county in the region will be consulted for its recommendation.
- F. If more than one hospital competes for a role in the local system that is deemed necessary by the regional Trauma Audit Committee and the EMS Agency, a Request for Proposal procedure may be necessary to determine the successful applicant.
- G. After review of the submitted application and documents, the EMS Agency will conduct a site review of the facility as outlined in the Application for Trauma Designation. The cost of the site review shall be the sole responsibility of the hospital applying for trauma destination.
- H. Upon the completion of a satisfactory site review, the EMS Agency will designate the hospital as a Level I, II, III, IV, or Pediatric I or II trauma center.
- I. In the event that the hospital fails to meet the criteria for designation, the EMS Agency may elect to issue a conditional designation that will be followed within six (6) to twelve (12) months by another evaluation of the deficient areas.
- J. Upon satisfactory completion of the second evaluation, the EMS Agency will authorize full designation of the Trauma Center.
- K. If the second evaluation is unsatisfactory, the EMS Agency may elect to continue the conditional designation upon correction of the areas of deficiency or deny designation.
- L. The hospital requesting designation and the EMS Agency will enter into a contract for designation of the trauma center.
- M. A designated trauma center shall obtain American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) verification within 2 (two) years of their initial trauma center designation. The cost of the verification shall be the sole responsibility of the hospital requesting such verification.
- N. The EMS Agency shall determine a plan for Trauma Care Services.
- O. Any change in designation will become part of the revised trauma plan and will be approved by the Local EMS Agency prior to submission to the State EMS Authority.

#### IV PROCEDURE FOR RE-EVALUATION OF A TRAUMA CENTER'S STATUS

- A. The EMS Agency shall evaluate the designated Trauma Centers' Status every three years for contractual compliance and compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7.

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- B. Designated Trauma Centers shall maintain verification with the ACS-COT. Trauma Centers shall submit to the EMS Agency a copy of the re-verification visit summary from the ACS-COT every three years.

V. PROCEDURE FOR DE-DESIGNATION

- A. Failure by a hospital to comply with applicable Local, State, and ACS-COT trauma requirements or applicable recommendations by site survey teams approved by the EMS Agency or ACS-COT, may result in forfeiture of their trauma designation.
- B. Failure by a hospital to provide an adequate quality of care, as identified through medical audit and quality audit procedures, may result in forfeiture of their trauma designation.