



Emergency Medical Services Agency Prehospital Care Manual **Policy 105**

TRAUMA SYSTEM QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Effective Date January 22, 2007
Replaces July 1, 1995

Resources
None

I. Purpose

- A. To assure appropriate planning, implementation, evaluation and revision of all aspects of trauma care.
- B. To assure there is periodic medical audit and performance evaluations of each Trauma Center and the Trauma Care System.
- C. To provide an educational forum on trauma care.
- D. To provide an on-going medical review of trauma care.

II. Trauma System Quality Improvement

- A. Trauma System Quality Improvement shall be defined and implemented in accordance with the "Santa Clara County EMS Agency Quality Improvement Plan for the Trauma System".
- B. Essential components shall include:
 - 1. Internal Trauma Center Quality Improvement
 - a) Each trauma center must have a formal and fully functional internal medical quality improvement program for their trauma service.
 - b) Responsibility for the trauma care at each institution, as well as compliance with the County Trauma Center Standards is that of the Director of the Trauma Service at each of the Trauma Centers.

- c) As part of the internal quality improvement process, each trauma center will perform its own case review. To that end it is obligatory that the respective Trauma Service Directors identify all trauma cases that meet County minimum medical audit criteria (including trauma related deaths). These cases should be subject to the Trauma Service medical quality improvement process at the individual Trauma Centers and the County Trauma Audit Committee.
2. External System-Wide Quality Improvement
- a) Trauma Audit Process shall be based on the review of cases, which meet criteria as selected by members of the trauma and medical communities. Cases shall be selected by the Trauma Screening Committee, using the quality improvement standards, and are reviewed by the Trauma Audit Committee, and may include trauma cases from throughout the EMS system.
 - b) The EMS Agency shall perform Periodic Audits of each Trauma Center. This audit may include random chart reviews, Trauma Registry data, and other records and documents.

The Agency shall assure that **Periodic System Site Visits** by trauma specialists from outside the county allow for an independent evaluation to take place. The frequency of these visits is determined by the Agency and will occur at least every two (2) years.