

TRAUMA TIMES

A Communication of the Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention

Indiana State Department of Health

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Upcoming Events

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission meeting, Fishers Town Hall
December 20, 10 a.m.
- Indiana State Trauma Care Committee Meeting, ISDH Offices
February 7, 10 a.m.

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Trauma Registry Rule Signed by Governor

Governor Pence signed the Trauma Registry rule into law on October 25. It will require all pre-hospital (EMS) transport providers, hospitals with emergency departments and the State's seven rehabilitation hospitals to report trauma cases to the ISDH trauma registry. The rule becomes effective November 24. The rule was preliminarily adopted by the ISDH Executive Board in January 2013 and a public hearing was held July 29. The full text of the Trauma Registry rule can be found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20131120-IR-410120617FRA.xml.pdf>.

The requirement that EMS transport providers submit data to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is unchanged by the Trauma Registry rule; EMS transport providers must report their data to both agencies. The ISDH Trauma and Injury Prevention Division is planning statewide training events for all those required by the rule to submit data. If you are interested in receiving training on the trauma registry, contact Division Director Brian Carnes, bcarnes@isdh.in.gov, 317-234-2865 or Trauma Registry Manager Katie Gatz, kgatz@isdh.in.gov, 317-234-7321.

Triage and Transport Trauma Centers Named

One Indiana hospital, Ball Memorial, Muncie, has been found to qualify as a trauma center for purposes of the Triage and Transport rule and two more hospitals, St. Elizabeth-East (Lafayette) and St. Vincent-Anderson, could soon become trauma centers for purposes of the Triage and Transport Rule, pending recommendation by the State Health Commissioner and approval by the EMS Commission. Another application from a fourth Indiana hospital has also been received for consideration.

The Triage and Transport Rule was adopted by the EMS Commission in mid-2012, requiring that seriously injured trauma patients be taken to trauma centers. The rule further defined "trauma centers" as including hospitals "in the process of American College of Surgeon (ACS)-verification." To be so considered, a hospital must apply to IDHS and first sufficiently convince the State Health Commissioner that the hospital will become ACS-verified within two years and secondly be approved by the EMS Commission as an "in the process of ACS verification" trauma center. The trauma center designation is only for the purposes of the Triage and Transport Rule and does not extend to reimbursement or other benefits for the hospital as a trauma center.

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Triage and Transport Trauma Centers Named, Cont'd

Hospitals interested in being considered a "trauma center" for purposes of the Triage and Transport Rule must complete and submit forms that the EMS Commission has posted on its website (<http://www.in.gov/dhs/2367.htm>). The forms must be completed and submitted to IDHS. The Indiana State Trauma Care Committee and ISDH will review these documents, and the State Health Commissioner will make a recommendation to the EMS Commission, which makes the final decision on "in the process" status. For the most up-to-date information regarding "in the process of ACS-verification", visit: <https://indianatrauma.org/>.

Injury Prevention

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day took place October 26. The event aims to reduce the improper disposal of unwanted prescription drugs by providing an alternative to flushing down the toilet, placing in regular trash or leaving them in the home where they are susceptible to illegal or unintended use, while at the same time educating the public on the potential for abuse of medications. Another similar event in April 2013 collected 11.5 tons of unwanted medications in Indiana.

Holiday Safety

With the upcoming holidays, it is important to plan ahead to avoid all too-common injuries.

Outdoor Safety:

- While decorating for the holidays, make sure you use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places in your home. Do not stand on chairs, desks or other furniture as you may become unsteady and fall. Use ladders with slip-resistant feet and wear clean, dry and slip-resistant shoes. Precipitation and winds can lead to slipping and falling off the ladder, so do not use a ladder during bad weather.
- Limit your exposure to cold temperatures. Dress in multiple layers to trap warm air between layers and wear a hat to prevent loss of body heat. Take trips inside frequently to avoid hypothermia and frost bite.
- With colder temperatures approaching, ensure your car has a winter "survival kit" containing items such as a flashlight, extra batteries, first aid kit, ice and snow scraper and non-perishable, high-energy foods in case you encounter an emergency situation on the road.

Holiday Cooking Safety:

- Make sure your holiday cooking is done safely. Keep items that can catch fire, such as dish towels, potholders and paper towels, away from the stove or cook top. Avoid wearing loose sleeves or clothes while cooking.
- Place smoke alarms in the kitchen, outside each sleeping area, inside each bedroom, and on every level of your home.
- Check that the stove, oven and other kitchen appliances are turned off once cooking is done.

Home Safety:

- Make sure your holiday plants are out of the reach of children and pets. Ensure your plants are not poisonous or injurious prior to placing in your home.
- Be a smart party host or guest by using a designated driver to get guests and yourself home after a holiday party if alcohol is served. Alcohol-related motor vehicle collision injuries and deaths can be avoided if the proper steps are taken to avoid drinking and driving.
- If children receive toys, make sure they do not contain strings or straps which can strangle them. Make sure to remove other choking hazards, such as plastic film coverings, marbles, button batteries and magnets.

Trauma Performance Improvement Goals Set

The Performance Improvement subcommittee of the Indiana State Trauma Care Committee has been meeting quarterly to work on three statewide goals:

1. Increase the number of hospitals reporting to the trauma registry.
2. Increase the number of EMS run sheets left at hospitals.
3. Trauma patients that are transferred to a trauma center are transferred out of the initial hospital in less than two hours.

The subcommittee has several projects in place to reach the three goals. The trauma center mentor program connects trauma and non-trauma centers around the state and promotes communication between hospitals, with a focus on reporting to the registry. The Trauma Registry Rule will also help to reach the goal by increasing the number of reporting hospitals. The group devised several ways to increase the run sheet collection, including educating EMS providers about the significance of the ISDH EMS registry and providing run sheets at the hospital. The group is still working towards reducing the transfer time to under two hours and proposed several educational ideas about the importance of non-trauma centers quickly transferring patients to higher levels of care.

ISDH EMS Data Pilot Project

The ISDH Trauma and Injury Prevention program has been collecting pre-hospital data from EMS providers since February 2013 and now have more than 225,000 runs in our EMS registry. We thank the 36 EMS providers who have been generous in working with us and actively supplying data. EMS providers who have submitted data to the Registry have received their data back, with comparisons to statewide data submitted by other providers.

If you would like to submit EMS data to the Trauma Registry, contact Katie Gatz, Trauma Registry Manager, at kgatz@isdh.in.gov, 317-234-7321.

ISDH EMS Medical Director's Conference

The ISDH Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention will host a statewide EMS Medical Director's Conference on Friday, January 31, 2014 at Fort Benjamin Harrison Garrison Center in Indianapolis. The conference is intended to unite EMS medical directors from around the state to discuss important emergency medicine topics, such as expectations of medical directors, EMS legal aspects in Indiana, EMS pediatric evidence-based guidelines and more.

More information about how to register will be available in the next few weeks. Registration will be open from December 9 through January 17.

If you would like more information about the ISDH EMS Medical Director's Conference, contact Division Director Brian Carnes, bcarnes@isdh.in.gov, 317-234-2865.

Trauma Track at Indiana Emergency Response Conference

A Trauma Track will be added to the Indiana Emergency Response Conference next August, event planners say. This statewide conference is intended for all in the Indiana emergency response community and will be held at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing. The conference will run from August 20 to 23. The Trauma Track will include approximately 15 one-hour presentations over multiple days on specific trauma topics important to emergency responders.

Please contact Katie Gatz or Brian Carnes if you would like to speak on a particular topic or would like to propose a topic. ISDH Trauma staff is working to finalize the proposed track. Possible topics include:

- Selective spinal immobilization
- Tranexamic acid and management of anticoagulation reversal
- Trauma ultrasound
- Pelvic trauma
- Traumatic airway management
- Field amputation team
- RTTDC – 1 hour pre-hospital provider focus
- Trauma & Pregnancy
- Special population trauma (geriatric, pediatric, & pregnancy)
- Permissive hypotension
- Tourniquet placement, shortage, etc.
- Burn management
- Forensic assault
- Non-accidental trauma (child abuse)
- Chest trauma
- Interactive case scenarios & interventions
- Disaster triage from a trauma standpoint
- Trauma informed care - how to approach a traumatic patient
- Procedures in the pre-hospital field
- EMS documentation for trauma
- Injury prevention Best practices
- Injury prevention: Falls
- Injury prevention: Prescription drug abuse
- Injury prevention: motor vehicle collisions
- Shock Index
- Need for Pre-hospital documentation at the destination
- Triage & Transport Rule and the CDC Field Triage Decision Scheme / Trauma Registry Rule

Trauma Staffing Changes Anticipated

The ISDH Trauma and Injury Prevention Division anticipates naming a new EMS Registry Manager soon, but the position of Data Analyst remains unfilled. If you or someone you know is interested in a position with the ISDH as the Trauma Registry's Data Analyst, please contact Division Director Brian Carnes, bcarnes@isdh.in.gov, 317-234-2865.

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