

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 14, 2012

Dear Hospital Administrator:

In working to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to optimal trauma care, in consultation with the State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) and after discussion and input from the state's regional and area trauma centers, the New York State Department of Health (Department) will adopt the American College of Surgeon's Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) standards and verification process for the trauma system.

The ACS-COT is the oldest standing committee of the College, and focuses on improving the care of severely injured patients. These national standards were the basis for the state's original trauma regulations, which were adopted in 1990. Adopting the ACS-COT standards and verification process will enable trauma centers to keep pace with the current standards in trauma care, and will ensure that our trauma centers meet national standards. Following verification, routine surveillance is conducted in three-year cycles. The results of the verification visit will be used by the Department to determine trauma center designation.

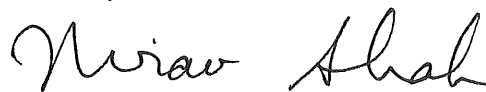
In the interim, current trauma regulations will remain in place.

The current state trauma system recognizes two levels of trauma center; regional and area. The ACS-COT standards recognize four levels of trauma center. Level three and four trauma centers are community hospitals which dedicate their resources to receive and stabilize severely injured patients, and then transfer those patients to level one and two centers. These facilities provide necessary resuscitation and initial care in rural areas where, due to geography, patients can not be immediately transported to level one or two centers. This will enable hospitals which currently do not participate in the state trauma system to do so, thereby strengthening the entire system.

We are presently working with the STAC and the College on an implementation process and time line. We expect to be contacting you soon to determine your intent in participating in the state's trauma system utilizing the ACS-COT standards and verification process.

If you need more information, please contact staff of the Bureau of Emergency Services; Linda Tripoli at (518) 402-0996, *Ext. 2* or Lee Burns at (518) 402-0996, *Ext. 4*. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health