

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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Date: March 27, 2003

TO: Local EMS Agency Administrators

FROM: Richard E. Watson
Interim Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Watson", written over the typed name and title.

SUBJECT: **Implementation of Required Minimum Inclusion Criteria for
Local Trauma Registries**

On August 9, 2001, Governor Davis signed Assembly Bill 430 (Chapter 171) into law and sections 1797.198 and 1797.199 were added to the Health and Safety Code creating the Trauma Care Fund in the State Treasury. As a result, trauma funding was distributed to designated trauma centers for FY 2001/02 and FY 2002/03. Funding was based on trauma registry data received from each local EMS agency.

Section 1797.199 of the above statute requires a "standardized reporting of trauma patients to local trauma registries" by July 1, 2003. To that end, all local EMS Agencies shall utilize the following minimum trauma patient criteria for reporting trauma patients to local trauma registries:

ICD-9 800-959.9

AND

Physically evaluated by trauma or burn surgeon in the ED or resuscitation area

OR

Death in Emergency Department

OR

Transfer for trauma services (note: may include inter-facility and intra-facility)

Exclusion:

Isolated burn without penetrating or blunt mechanism of injury

The development of these criteria began on March 30, 2001, when the EMS Authority convened a Trauma Data Group. This group functioned as a subgroup of the State Trauma Advisory Committee. The following timeline represents the process used for this project:

March 30, 2001	Trauma Data Group established as a sub-group of the State Trauma Advisory Committee to draft the trauma registry inclusion criteria.
February 1, 2002	The draft trauma registry inclusion criteria were presented to the State Trauma Advisory Committee for approval. Minor revisions were made.
February 27, 2002	The draft trauma registry inclusion criteria were provided to the EMS Commission as part of the quarterly report. The report was placed on the consent calendar and approved with no discussion.
September 20, 2002	The draft trauma registry inclusion criteria were sent to each EMS agency with an approved trauma plan for a 30 day review and comment period.
November 1, 2002	Comments were received on the trauma registry inclusion criteria. EMSA staff provided a response for each comment and minor revisions were made.
November 2002	Revised trauma registry inclusion criteria and all comments were sent to the Trauma Data Ad Hoc Group for review. Revisions made.
February 6, 2003	Final draft of trauma registry inclusion criteria approved by State Trauma Advisory Committee.
March 19, 2003	Final draft of trauma registry inclusion criteria approved by the EMS Commission.

It is understood that there may be an implementation phase-in process for trauma registries not currently collecting data on trauma patients meeting the minimum criteria. Any delay in implementation beyond the July 1, 2003 date should be reported to the EMS Authority along with an expected implementation date. It should be noted that failure to collect trauma data as per this criteria may affect future funding as referenced in section 1797.199 of the Health and Safety Code.

The implementation of the minimum trauma registry inclusion criteria brings California another step closer to a state trauma registry. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Sinz at (916) 322-4336 extension 460.

cc: State Trauma Advisory Committee
Each EMS Medical Director
Each designated Trauma Center