



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES AGENCY



TRAUMA CENTER ASSESSMENT –

Does One Size Fit All?

*Cathy Chidester, RN, MSN
EMS Agency Director*

Trauma Center Assessment:



The vision for California is to develop a statewide inclusive trauma system that assures rapid access to care for all individuals within one hour following major injury

Trauma Center Assessment:



Trauma System Goals:

- ***Decrease the incidence and severity of trauma***
- ***Ensure access to care***
- ***Prevent unnecessary deaths and disabilities***
- ***Contain costs***
- ***Implement performance improvement***
- ***Ensure appropriate resources***

Trauma Center Assessment:



***Trauma Systems
should seek to
minimize variations
and quality of care
delivered***

Trauma Center Assessment:



An effective evaluation process should review and verify the qualifications of facilities according to a specific set of resources and quality standards

Trauma Center Assessment:



Trauma Center designation is the responsibility of the local EMS Agency in the State of California

Trauma Center Assessment:



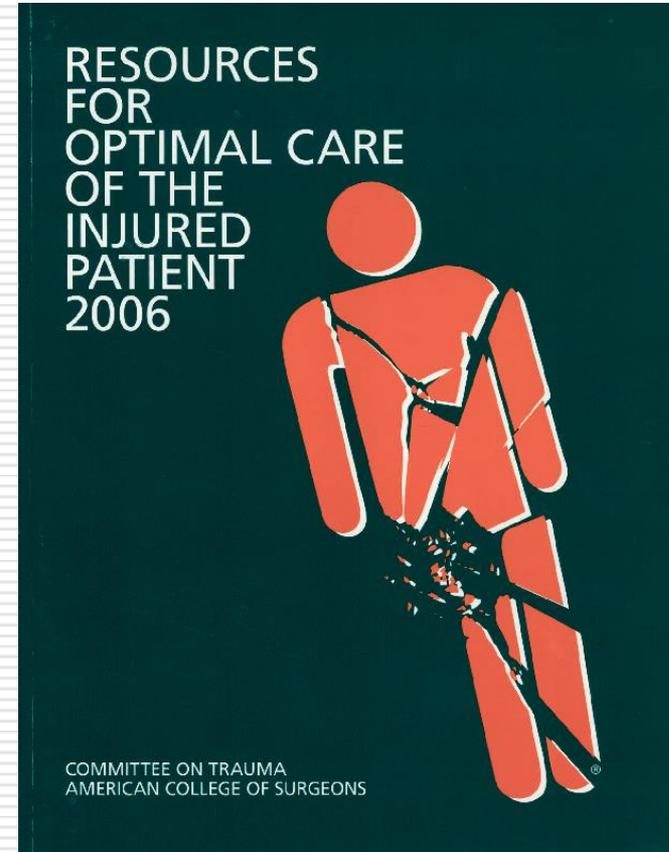
***Trauma Center
verification is the
responsibility of
American College
of Surgeons***

-
- *LEMSA is responsible to public to ensure the trauma center provides quality care*
 - *This is partially accomplished through verification*

Trauma Center Assessment:



The American College of Surgeons is the nationally & internationally recognized authority in trauma care



Trauma Center Assessment:



***ACS review process has
been utilized in Los
Angeles County since
1983***

***LA County has used for
25 + years (over 133
surveys)***

Trauma Center Assessment:



***Should the ACS
verification process
be the standard for
Trauma Center
assessment and
designation in the
State of California?***

Trauma Center Assessment:



PRO –

**ACS criteria are
similar to the
California Code of
Regulations**

Trauma Center Assessment:



CON –

**ACS criteria are
not identical to the
California Code of
Regulations**

Trauma Center Assessment:



**PRO –
ACS review
process is
utilized in 44 of
the 50 states**

Trauma Center Assessment:



CON –

**ACS review
process is not
utilized
nationally**

Trauma Center Assessment:



**Alternate processes
utilized seem to be
based upon ACS
standards – but lack
the depth and history**

Trauma Center Assessment:



PRO –
ACS has
implemented
processes to
ensure consistency

Trauma Center Assessment:



CON –

**Inconsistencies/
inaccuracies in the
review process
still exist**

Trauma Center Assessment:



EXAMPLE ONE –

“This 2 year-old was found down by the patient’s mother. The boyfriend described the child as falling off of a cardboard box. EMS found the patient with a heart rate of 130 and good capillary refill, with a respiratory rate of 30. **A full trauma team was activated.** Upon arrival, the patient underwent evaluation by the ED physician. **No trauma team was activated.** FAST exam.....”

Trauma Center Assessment:



EXAMPLE TWO –

Executive Summary / Weakness:

“The trauma flow sheet is suboptimal, lacks collection of all data points; and documentation is often incomplete.”

Same Report –

Hospital Facilities/ A. Emergency Department:

“The reviewers judged the trauma flow sheet to be of good quality, and documentation was usually thorough.”

Trauma Center Assessment:



CON –

**ACS verification
review cost a
minimum of
\$13,000**

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- Can a one day survey and review of a small percentage of charts ensure quality care?*
 - Can recommendations from ACS improve trauma care.*

Trauma Center Assessment:



***So, should ACS be
the standard
utilized statewide
for trauma center
assessment?***

- ❑ *We need to look at the process in more depth.*
- ❑ *The are benefits to being verified by a nationally recognized body*
- ❑ *ACS seems willing to change with the times and needs of the community?*
- ❑ *Will there be changes in methodology used by the ACS*
- ❑ *Will we see State and or National comparisons*

Trauma Center Assessment:



***If so, should
verification by the
ACS be required
for designation by
the local EMS
Agency?***

Trauma Center Assessment:



***If so, for all
levels of
Trauma
Centers?***

Trauma Center Assessment:



***LA County has
utilized the ACS for
this external
independent review
for the last 30
years***

Trauma Center Assessment:



***While ACS has
worked for LA Co.
Does One Size Fit
All?***