

FOCUSED QUESTIONS

Changes to the Arizona Trauma Statutes and Rules

Over the past couple of years there have been calls for a number of different changes to the statutes and rules pertaining to our trauma system. Some individuals have called for a mandate that each acute care hospital be designated at some level while others have called for ADHS to limit the number of trauma centers based upon volume and geography. Both sides argue that evidence supports their position.

Question: What evidence-based changes to our trauma system can you make to improve the delivery, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of trauma care to our citizens?

Question: Do you see a need for specific changes in our statutes and rules? If yes, what are they?

Arizona Focus on Guideline vs Rule

The three statutory committees and four EMS regions have relied upon voluntary guidelines and not mandatory rules for the practice of EMS and trauma in Arizona. We have seen that this can be an effective approach evidenced by our excellent success in improving survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Recently, changes in the number, location and level of trauma centers, particularly in the Phoenix metro area, has resulted in calls for ADHS to adopt trauma triage, treatment and transport RULES governing where EMS may transport trauma patients and which hospitals may receive trauma patients. Statutory and regulatory authority for BEMSTS to adopt clinical care rules does exist, though authority to delegate to the Regions does not.

Question: What recommendations can you make regarding how our statutory committees and regions currently provide clinical direction and oversight in regards to trauma care in our State?

ADHS Focus on Using Data to Enhance the System

Since the Data and Quality Assurance Team was organized within BEMSTS we have been able to utilize the high quality data within ASTR and other ADHS databases to report on system performance issues as well as center performance issues. Over the next 18 months this capability will be augmented as the EMS registry comes on line.

Question: What specific process and outcome metrics would you recommend to best measure the effectiveness of our state trauma system?

Rehabilitation Participation in the Trauma System

The STAB has had consistent representation from members of the Rehabilitation community who have advocated for greater participation in the trauma system.

Question: What recommendations can you make to enhance the participation, evaluation and performance improvement of the rehabilitation community as a component of our system?