

# GD-116-PHS-EMS: Child Maltreatment Assessment Capabilities

---

## STATE OF ARIZONA • EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA SYSTEM

### Trauma Center Child Maltreatment Assessment Capabilities

#### Background

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) § 36-2225 requires the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) to develop and administer a statewide trauma system and trauma plan. A.R.S. § 36-2225 further requires the Department to adopt rules for the designation of trauma centers. In Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 9, Chapter 25, Article 13, the Department specifies the processes by which a health care institution may voluntarily request designation. Any hospital in Arizona that meets the applicable American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS) or state standards may apply for and receive designation as a trauma center.

On January 1, 2018, the Department revised the rules in 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 13, to address stakeholder concerns, update the application process, remove obsolete requirements, and improve the effectiveness of the rules. Under the new rules, hospitals applying for trauma center designation based on meeting state standards must comply with 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 13, Table 13.1(8) Child Maltreatment Assessment Capabilities.

- “Child” means a person who is under the age of eighteen years of age (A.R.S. § 8-161(2)).
- The term “maltreatment” encompasses all types of physical abuse or neglect against a child, as defined in A.R.S. § 8-201.
- Duty to report abuse, physical injury, neglect, and denial or deprivation of medical or surgical care or nourishment of minors is included in A.R.S. § 13-3620.

#### Process

The State Trauma Advisory Board recommends that trauma centers comply with 9 A.A.C. 25, Article 13, Table 13.1(8) Child Maltreatment Assessment Capabilities by demonstrating the following:

1. Implementation of written policies and procedures that include an institutional protocol for screening children for injuries or conditions suspicious for maltreatment.
2. Documentation of annual staff training in maltreatment recognition and in arranging prompt reporting according to the Trauma Center’s policies and procedures.
3. Development and implementation of a continuous quality improvement process with multi-disciplinary input that ensures that:
  - a. Cases of suspected maltreatment are appropriately recognized;
  - b. Legally-required reporting, according to A.R.S. § 13-3620, has been made; and
  - c. Staff actions are reviewed retrospectively for compliance and the need for additional education.