

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
SP-096-PHS-EMS**

CLARIFICATION OF PROVISIONAL DESIGNATION FOR TRAUMA CENTERS

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to clarify the eligibility requirements established under Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R9-25-1305 for provisional designation as a trauma center.

A.A.C. R9-25-1305 states that:

- A. The owner of a health care institution may apply for one 18-month provisional designation as a Level I, Level II, or Level III trauma center if:
 - 1. When the owner applies for provisional designation, the owner's health care institution has not produced at least 12 consecutive months of data related to trauma services provided at the health care institution; and
 - 2. The owner cannot comply with R9-25-1302(A)(1)(b), (A)(2)(b), or (A)(3)(b).

Before a hospital seeks designation as a trauma center, the hospital must gather sufficient records of patients receiving trauma services, containing specific data related to the trauma services provided, to enable the trauma services provided by the hospital to be assessed. As the hospital develops the hospital's trauma capacity in preparation for seeking designation as a trauma center, the hospital may choose to submit to the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) data related to the services provided by the hospital to treat trauma injuries. By submitting this data, the hospital may receive feedback and technical assistance from the Department to improve the services provided to patients with trauma injuries and the quality of the data collected about these patients and the services provided to them, to assist the hospital in preparing for designation.

Designated trauma centers are required under A.A.C. R9-25-1313(2) to submit data related to the trauma services provided at the trauma centers. The Department uses the data submitted to the trauma registry database to determine the characteristics of trauma injuries statewide in order to inform policy decisions about the trauma system, better develop injury prevention strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness of injury-prevention activities. Although injury data from hospitals that have not yet sought designation may not have the same significance as data from designated trauma centers, the data may be used by the Department to better address the strengths and weaknesses of Arizona's trauma system, and Department has encouraged the submission of data from hospitals that have not yet sought designation, as well as from designated trauma centers.

The Department interprets A.A.C. R9-25-1305(A)(1) as not applying to the submission of injury data from undesignated hospitals, nor to the submission of data related to the trauma services provided at designated trauma centers as required by A.A.C. R9-25-1313(2), and plans to clarify this subsection of the rule the next time the rules in 9 A.A.C. 25, Articles 13 and 14 are revised.