

# Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 5060  
Effective Date: 7/1/2024  
Review Date: 6/30/2027

## TRAUMA CENTER DESIGNATION PROCESS

### I. PURPOSE

To define the process by which a hospital may be designated as a Trauma Center (TC).

### II. TRAUMA CENTER DESIGNATION

- A. Monterey County requires that all TCs are accredited by the Joint Commission and verified through the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma as a Level I, II, III, or IV TC and/or Level I or II Pediatric TC.
- B. The EMS Agency and the ACS Committee on Trauma have designated Natividad as the Level II TC in Monterey County.

### III. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL TRAUMA CENTERS


- A. The EMS Agency will perform or direct the performance of a needs assessment before designating any additional TCs.
- B. The EMS Agency will utilize an application process for designation of any additional TCs. The process will be structured to allow application by any interested acute care hospital.
- C. Submitted proposals will be reviewed by Monterey County EMS Agency staff for completeness and compliance with minimum requirements. The Monterey County EMS Agency will offer applicants whose proposals are incomplete or not fully compliant an opportunity to revise the proposal prior to its review by the Trauma Proposal Review Team.
- D. The Monterey County EMS Agency will lead the formation of a Trauma Proposal Review Team to review the written proposals and conduct site visits. This team will include a trauma surgeon, emergency physician(s), a trauma program manager, and/or hospital administrator, an EMS Agency Administrator, and/or similar experts as necessary. All members of the Trauma Proposal Review Team shall:
  - 1. Have previous expertise in TC and trauma system operation;
  - 2. Understand the multi-disciplinary nature of trauma care;
  - 3. Have no known conflicts of interest; and
  - 4. Reside and work outside of the County of Monterey.
- E. Based on the recommendations(s) of the Trauma Proposal Review Team, the Monterey County EMS Agency may identify additional facilities for potential TC designation. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors shall confirm the determination.

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- F. The EMS Agency's preliminary decision may be appealed to an Appeal Committee consisting of the Director of Health, a trauma medical director, and a hospital administrator.
1. The Appeal Committee will review the appeal and make recommendations to the Monterey County EMS Agency whose decision will be final.
  2. Grounds for appeals are limited to alleged failure to follow the TC Designation process and criteria and/or conflicts of interest.
  3. The Monterey County EMS Agency will endeavor to execute a contract with the designated TC based on the proposal, EMS trauma policies, and State laws and regulations.
- G. The Monterey County EMS Agency will endeavor to execute a Designation Agreement with the facility based on the facility's proposal, Monterey County EMS System trauma policies, and State laws and regulations.
- H. If the Monterey County EMS Agency and the facility are unable to mutually agree on a contract, the designation may be withdrawn and offered to another acute care hospital which has applied for Trauma Center designation.

### END OF POLICY

  
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