Achieving Zero Preventable Deaths: Building a National Trauma Care System and Research Action Plan

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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Overview

Trauma System

Military Relationship

Challenges & Changes
TRAUMA SERVICE AREA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albuquerque</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbock</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td>796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Trauma System

Trauma Service Area

- 39K square miles
- 1.2M individuals in TX & NM
- El Paso County
  - 824K
- El Paso City
  - 674K

El Paso’s Trauma Centers

- UMC-El Paso (Level I)
- HCA System
  - Level II
  - Level III
- Tenet System
  - Four Level IVs
- WBAMC (Level III)
Military Relationship

Fort Bliss

WBAMC
## Military Relationship Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HSC &amp; Trauma Center</th>
<th>WBAMC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Combined Military &amp; civilian orthopedic residency program</td>
<td>• OMFS rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3rd year medical student rotations</td>
<td>• Pediatric Surgery rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1st &amp; 2nd year medical student preceptorships</td>
<td>• Emergency Medicine NP fellowship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impediments

- Frequent leadership change
  - Lack of institutional memory

- Frequent deployments
  - Granting of faculty appointments
  - Educating new providers of LCME & GME requirements

- Licensing and credentialing frustrations (goes both ways)
  - Fingerprinting & federal background check of students
    - Military won’t accept the background checks done by the HSC

- Paperwork process is slow with inflexibility & lots of red tape (HSC & Military)
  - May require above approval above the chain of command at WBAMC or Fort Bliss

*Civilian and Military institutions do NOT speak the same language*
Challenges and Change
Bureaucracy is the death of all sound work.

(Albert Einstein)
An Opportunity Lost
An Opportunity Lost

**ADVANTAGES**

• Clinical expertise

• Free labor

• Another surgeon in call schedule

• Opportunity for current SICU attendings to have time for:
  • Elective practice
  • Scholarly activity

**DISADVANTAGES**

• Can’t bill for their work

• May be deployed

• May be called back to WBAMC

• Malpractice concerns
Military staff are immunized from individual tort liability.
Trauma Center Proliferation

- HCA
  - Converting a Level III TC to a second Level II TC
- Tenet
  - Converting Level IV TCs to Level III TCs & possibly upgrading to a Level II TC
- WBAMC
  - Upgrading to a Level II TC

ACG-COT Needs Based Assessment of Trauma Systems Tool
No need for additional trauma centers in El Paso
Trauma Center Proliferation

WBAMC

- Low volume
- Location will not enhance increase in patient catchment
- Lack of specialist support
  - Neurosurgery
  - Cardiothoracic
- Improve clinical skills/readiness?

Level I & Level II Trauma Centers

- Financial impact to both TCs
- Financial impact to the HSC
- Educational impact to the HSC
- Hinder the volume requirement for Level I TC verification
- Improve or hinder the Trauma System?
A strong relationship benefits the Injured