American College of Surgeons

Consultation/Verification Program
Reference Guide of Suggested Classification

Level III	Chapter	CD	Requirement by Chapter	
http://www.facs.org/trauma/verifivisitoutcomes.html				
•	1	1- 1	1-1 All trauma centers must participate in the state and/or regional trauma system planning, development, or operation.	TYPE II
•	2	2- 1	2-1 Surgical commitment is essential for a properly functioning trauma center.	TYPE I
•	2	2- 2	2-2 Trauma centers must be able to provide on their campus the necessary human and physical resources to properly administer acute care consistent with their level of verification.	TYPE II
•	2	2- 4	2-4 The trauma director must have responsibility and authority for determining each general surgeon's ability to participate on the trauma panel based on an annual review.	TYPE II
•	2	2- 7	2-7 It is expected that the surgeon will be in the emergency department on patient arrival, with adequate notification from the field. The maximum acceptable response time is **15 minutes for Level I and II** trauma centers and **30 minutes for Level III** trauma centers, tracked form patient arrival. The program must demonstrate that the surgeon's presence is in compliance at least 80% of the time. Demonstration of the attending surgeon's prompt arrival for patients with appropriate activation criteria must be monitored by the hospital's trauma PIPS program.	TYPE I
•	2	2-10	2-10 A Level III trauma center must have continuous general surgical coverage.	TYPE II
•	2	2-11	2-11 Trauma panel surgeons must respond promptly to activations, remain knowledgeable in trauma care principles, whether treating patients locally or transferring them to a center with more resources, and participate in performance review activities.	TYPE I
•	2	2-12	2-12 Well-defined transfer plans are essential (approved by the TMD and monitored by the PIPS program) that define appropriate patients for transfer and retention.	TYPE I
•	2	2-13	2-13 A Level III and IV facilities must have 24-hour emergency coverage by a physician.	TYPE II

•	2	2-14	2-14 and 2-15 Any adult trauma center that annually admits 100 or more injured children younger than 15 years must fulfill the following additional criteria demonstrating their capability to care for injured children: Trauma surgeons must be credentialed for pediatric trauma care by the hospital's credentialing body, there must be a pediatric emergency department area, pediatric intensive care area, appropriate resuscitation equipment, and a pediatric-specific trauma PIPS program.	TYPE II
•	2	2-15	2-15, Refer to CD 2-14	TYPE II
•	2	2-16	2-16 For adult trauma centers admitting fewer than 100 injured children younger than 15 years, these resources are desirable. These hospitals must, however, review the care of their injured children through their PIPS program.	TYPE II
•	3	3- 1	3-1 The trauma director is involved in the development of the trauma center's bypass protocol.	TYPE II
•	3	3- 2	3-2 The trauma surgeon is involved in the decisions regarding bypass. The surgeons should be actively involved in prehospital personnel training, the PIPS process, and development of trauma components of EMS.	TYPE II
•	3	3- 3	3-3 The trauma program must participate in the development and improvement of pre-hospital care protocols and patient safety programs.	TYPE II
•	3	3- 4	3-4 The facility can not exceed the maximum divert time of 5%	TYPE II
•	4	4- 1	4-1 A mechanism for direct physician to physician contact is present for arranging patient transfers.	TYPE II
•	4	4 -2	4-2 The decision to transfer an injured patient to a specialty care facility in an acute situation is based solely on the needs of the patient; for example, payment method is not considered.	TYPE II
•	5	5- 1	5-1 The hospital has the commitment of the institutional governing body and the medical staff to become a trauma center.	TYPE I
•	5	5- 2	5-2 There is a current resolution (reaffirmed every three years) supporting the trauma center from the hospital board.	TYPE II
•	5	5- 3	5-3 There is a current resolution (reaffirmed every three years) supporting the trauma center from the medical staff.	TYPE II
•	5	5- 4	5-4 The multidisciplinary trauma program continuously evaluates its processes and outcomes to ensure optimal and timely care.	TYPE I
•	5	5- 5	5-5 The trauma medical director is either a board-certified surgeon or an ACS Fellow.	TYPE I
•	5	5- 6	5-6 The trauma medical director participates in trauma call.	TYPE I
•	5	5- 7	5-7 The trauma medical director is current in Advanced Trauma Life Support.	TYPE II

•	5	5- 9	5-9 The trauma director has the authority to correct deficiencies in trauma care or exclude from trauma call the trauma team members who do not meet specified criteria.	TYPE II
•	5	5-10	5-10 The criteria for a graded activation are clearly defined by the trauma center and continuously evaluated by the PIPS program. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE II
•	5	5-11	5-11 Programs that admit more than 10% of injured patients to nonsurgical services have demonstrated the appropriateness of that practice through the PIPS process. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE II
•	5	5-15	5-15 The structure of the trauma program allows the trauma director to have oversight authority for the care of injured patients who may be admitted to individual surgeons.	TYPE I
•	5	5-16	5-16 There is a method to identify injured patients, monitor the provision of health care services, make periodic rounds, and hold formal and informal discussions with individual practitioners.	TYPE I
•	5	5-18	5-18 There is a multidisciplinary peer review committee chaired by the trauma medical director or designee, with representatives from appropriate subspecialty services.	TYPE II
•	5	5-19	5-19 Adequate (>50%) attendance by general surgery (core group) at the multidisciplinary peer review committee is documented.	TYPE II
•	5	5-20	5-20 The core group is adequately defined by the trauma medical director.	TYPE II
•	5	5-21	5-21 The core group takes at least 60% of the total trauma call hours each month.	TYPE II
•	5	5-22	5-22 The trauma medical director ensures and documents dissemination of information and findings from the peer review meetings to the non-core surgeons on the trauma call panel.	TYPE II
•	5	5-23	5-23 There must be a Trauma Program Operational Process Performance Improvement Committee.	TYPE II

•	6	6- 1	6-1 The trauma medical director has responsibility and authority to ensure compliance with verification requirements.	TYPE II
•	6	6- 3	6-3 The trauma surgeon must have privileges in general surgery.	TYPE II
•	6	6- 6	6-6 An attendance threshold of 80% must be met for trauma surgeon presence in the emergency department.	TYPE I
•	6	6- 7	6-7 The criteria for the highest level of activations are clearly defined and evaluated by the PIPS program. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE II
•	6	6- 8	6-8 A mechanism for documenting trauma surgeon presence in the operating room for all trauma operations is in place.	TYPE II
•	6	6- 9	6-9 There is a multidisciplinary peer review committee with participation from general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, and anesthesia.	TYPE II
•	6	6-10	6-10 Adequate (>50%) attendance by general surgery (core group) at the multi-disciplinary peer review committee is documented.	TYPE II
•	6	6-11	6-11 All general surgeons on the trauma team have successfully completed the ATLS® course at least once.	TYPE II
•	7	7- 1	7-1 The emergency department has a designated emergency physician director supported by an appropriate number of additional physicians to ensure immediate care for injured patients.	TYPE I
•	7	7- 3	7-3 Emergency physicians cover in-house emergencies with a PIPS process demonstrating the efficacy of this practice.	TYPE II
•	7	7- 4	7-4 In institutions in which there are emergency medicine residency training programs, supervision is provided by an in-house attending emergency physician 24 hours per day.	TYPE II
•	7	7-5	7-5 The roles of emergency physicians and trauma surgeons are defined, agreed on, and approved by the director of trauma services.	TYPE II
•	7	7- 7	7-7 Emergency physicians on the call panel are regularly involved in the care of injured patients.	TYPE II
•	7	7- 8	7-8 A representative from the emergency department participates in the pre-hospital PIPS program.	TYPE II
•	7	7- 9	7-9 A designated emergency physician is available to the trauma director for PIPS issues that occur in the emergency department.	TYPE II

•	7	7-10	7-10 There is emergency physician participation with the overall trauma PIPS program and the Trauma Program Operational Process Performance Committee (dealing with systems issues).	TYPE II
•	7	7-11	7-11 The emergency medicine representative or designee to the multi-disciplinary peer review committee attends a minimum of 50% of these meetings.	TYPE II
•	7	7-14	7-14 There are emergency physicians who have successfully completed the ATLS® course.	TYPE II
•	7	7-15	7-15 The physicians who are not board certified in emergency medicine who work in the emergency department are current in ATLS®.	TYPE II
•	8	8- 6	8-6 There is a trauma-director approved plan that determines which types and severity of neurologic injury patients should remain at the facility when no neurosurgical coverage is present.	TYPE II
•	8	8- 7	8-7 There is a performance improvement program that convincingly demonstrates appropriate care in the facility that treats neurotrauma patients.	TYPE I
•	8	8- 8	8-8 There are transfer agreements with appropriate Level I and Level II centers.	TYPE II
•	9	9- 2	9-2 Operating rooms are promptly available to allow for emergency operations on musculoskeletal injuries, such as open fracture debridement and stabilization and compartment decompression.	TYPE I
•	9	9- 4	9-4 There is an orthopaedic surgeon who is identified as the liaison to the trauma program.	TYPE I
•	9	9-10	9-10 The PIPS process reviews the appropriateness of the decision to transfer or retain major orthopaedic trauma.	TYPE II
•	9	9-11	9-11 The Level III facility has an orthopaedic surgeon on call and promptly available 24 hours a day.	TYPE II
•	9	9-12	9-12 The orthopaedic service participates actively with the overall trauma PIPS program and the Trauma Program Operational Process Performance Committee.	TYPE II
•	9	9-13	9-13 The orthopaedic trauma liaison or representative attends a minimum of 50% of the multidisciplinary peer review meetings.	TYPE II
•	9	9-15	9-15 The orthopaedic surgeon has privileges in general orthopaedic surgery.	TYPE II
•	10	10-30	10-30 and 10-31 Any adult trauma center that annually admits 100 or more injured children younger than 15 years must fulfill the following additional criteria demonstrating its capability to care for the injured child: the trauma surgeons must be credentialed for pediatric trauma care by the hospital's credentialing body , there must be a pediatric emergency department area, a pediatric intensive care area, appropriate resuscitation equipment, and a pediatric-specific trauma PIPS program.	TYPE II

•	10	10-31	Refer to CD 10-30	TYPE II
•	10	10-32	10-32 For adult trauma centers admitting fewer than 100 injured children younger than 15 years must review the care of injured children through their PIPS programs.	TYPE II
•	11	11- 1	11-1 Anesthesiology services are promptly available for emergency operations.	TYPE I
•	11	11- 2	11-2 Anesthesiology services are promptly available for airway problems.	TYPE I
•	11	11- 3	11-3 There is an anesthesiologist liaison designated to the trauma program.	TYPE I
•	11	11- 6	11-6 The availability of the anesthesia services and the absence of delays in airway control or operations is documented by the hospital PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	11	11- 7	11-7 Anesthesia services are available 24 hours a day and present for all operations.	TYPE I
•	11	11- 8	11-8 In trauma centers without in-house anesthesia services, protocols are in place to ensure the timely arrival at the bedside of the anesthesia provider.	TYPE I
•	11	11- 9	11-9 In a center without anesthesia services, there is documentation of the presence of physicians skilled in emergency airway management.	TYPE I
•	11	11-10	11-10 Availability of anesthesia services and the absence of delays in airway control or operations are documented in the hospital PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	11	11-12	11-12 The anesthesia liaison has been identified.	TYPE I
•	11	11-13	11-13 The anesthesia resident participates in the trauma PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	11	11-14	11-14 The anesthesiology representative or designee to the trauma program attends at least 50% of the multidisciplinary peer review meetings.	TYPE II
•	11	11-18	11-18 The operating room is adequately staffed and immediately available. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE I
•	11	11-19	11-19 The PIPS program evaluates operating room availability and delays when an on-call team is used.	TYPE II
•	11	11-20	11-20 The operating room has the essential equipment.	TYPE I
•	11	11-22	11-22 There is craniotomy equipment in the Level III trauma center that offers neurosurgery services.	TYPE II
•	11	11-24	11-24 The PACU has qualified nurses available 24 hours per day as needed during the patient's post-anesthesia recovery phase.	TYPE I
•	11	11-25	11-25 The PACU is covered by a call team from home with documentation by the PIPS program that PACU nurses are available and delays are not occurring.	TYPE II
•	11	11-26	11-26 (I, II, III) The PACU has the necessary equipment to monitor and resuscitate patients.	TYPE I

•	11	11-27	11-27 The PIPS process ensures that the PACU has the necessary equipment to monitor and resuscitate patients.	TYPE II
•	11	11-28	11-28 Radiologists are promptly available, in person or by teleradiology, when requested, for the interpretation of radiographs, performance of complex imaging studies, or interventional procedures.	TYPE I
•	11	11-29	11-29 Diagnostic information is communicated in a written form and in a timely manner.	TYPE II
•	11	11-30	11-30 Critical information is verbally communicated to the trauma team.	TYPE II
•	11	11-31	11-31 Final reports accurately reflect communications, including changes between preliminary and final interpretations.	TYPE II
•	11	11-32	11-32 Changes in interpretation are monitored through the PIPS program.	TYPE II
•	11	11-35	11-35 The trauma center has policies designed to ensure that trauma patients who may require resuscitation and monitoring are accompanied by appropriately trained providers during transportation to and while in the radiology department.	TYPE II
•	11	11-36	11-36 Conventional radiography and CT are available in all trauma centers 24 hours per day.	TYPE I
•	11	11-39	11-39 When the CT technologist responds from outside the hospital, the PIPS program documents the response time. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE II
•	11	11-45	11-45 The trauma center has a surgical director or co-director for the ICU who is responsible for setting policies and administration related to trauma ICU patients.	TYPE II
•	11	11-46	11-46 The trauma surgeon remains in charge of patients in the ICU.	TYPE I
•	11	11-49	11-49 When a critically ill trauma patient is treated locally, there must be a mechanism in place to provide prompt availability of ICU physician coverage 24 hours per day.	TYPE I
•	11	11-52	11-52 The surgical director or the surgical co-director must be a surgeon, who is credentialed by the hospital to care for ICU patients, and who participates in the PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	11	11-53	11-53 The trauma service retains responsibility for patients and coordinates all therapeutic decisions appropriate for its level.	TYPE I
•	11	11-54	11-54 The trauma surgeon is kept informed of and concurs with major therapeutic and management decisions made by the ICU team.	TYPE I
•	11	11-56	11-56 Coverage of emergencies in the ICU does not leave the emergency department without appropriate physician coverage. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE II

•	11	11-57	11-57 The PIPS program reviews admissions and transfers to ensure appropriateness.	TYPE II
•	11	11-58	11-58 A qualified nurse is available 24 hours per day to provide care during the ICU phase.	TYPE I
•	11	11-59	11-59 The patient/nurse ratio does not exceed 2:1 for critically ill patients in the ICU.	TYPE II
•	11	11-60	11-60 The ICU has the necessary equipment to monitor and resuscitate patients.	TYPE I
•	11	11-62	11-62 There is intracranial pressure monitoring equipment in the Level III center that admits neurotrauma patients.	TYPE II
•	11	11-65	11-65 Level III centers must have the availability of orthopaedic surgery.	TYPE I
•	11	11-69	11-69 In a Level III facility, internal medicine specialists must be available.	TYPE II
•	11	11-71	11-71 There is a respiratory therapist available and on call 24 hours per day.	TYPE I
•	11	11-75	11-75 Laboratory services are available 24 hours per day for the standard analyses of blood, urine, and other body fluids, including microsampling when appropriate.	TYPE I
•	11	11-76	11-76 The blood bank must be capable of blood typing and cross matching.	TYPE I
•	11	11-77	11-77 The blood bank must have an adequate supply of red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma, platelets, cryoprecipitate, and appropriate coagulation factors to meet the needs of injured patients.	TYPE I
•	11	11-78	11-78 The capability for coagulation studies, blood gases, and microbiology must be available 24 hours a day.	TYPE I
•	12	12- 2	12-2 The hospital must provide physical therapy services.	TYPE I
•	12	12- 3	12-3 The hospital must provide social services.	TYPE II
•	15	15- 1	15-1 Trauma registry data are collected and analyzed.	TYPE II
•	15	15- 2	15-2 The data are submitted to the National Trauma Data Bank. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf**	TYPE II
•	15	15- 3	15-3 The trauma center uses the registry to support the PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	15	15- 4	15-4 The trauma registry has at least 80% of the trauma cases entered within 60 days of discharge	TYPE II
•	15	15- 5	15-5 The trauma program ensures that trauma registry confidentiality measures are in place.	TYPE II
•	15	15- 6	15-6 There are strategies for monitoring data validity for the trauma registry.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 1	16-1 The trauma center demonstrates a clearly defined PIPS program for the trauma population.	TYPE II

•	16	16- 2	16-2 The PIPS program is supported by a reliable method of data collection that consistently gathers valid and objective information necessary to identify opportunities for improvement.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 3	16-3 The program is able to demonstrate that the trauma registry supports the PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 4	16-4 The process of analysis includes multidisciplinary review.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 5	16-5 The process of analysis occurs at regular intervals to meet the needs of the program.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 6	16-6 The results of analysis define corrective strategies.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 7	16-7 The results of analysis and corrective strategies are documented.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 8	16-8 The trauma program is empowered to address issues that involve multiple disciplines.	TYPE II
•	16	16- 9	16-9 The trauma program has adequate administrative support and defined lines of authority that ensure comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of trauma care.	TYPE II
•	16	16-10	16-10 The trauma program has a medical director with the authority and administrative support to lead the program.	TYPE II
•	16	16-11	16-11 The trauma medical director has sufficient authority to set the qualifications for the trauma service members.	TYPE II
•	16	16-12	16-12 The trauma medical director has sufficient authority to recommend changes for the trauma panel based upon performance reviews.	TYPE II
•	16	16-13	16-13 Identified problem trends undergo multidisciplinary peer review by the Trauma Peer Review Committee.	TYPE II
•	16	16-14	16-14 The trauma center is able to separately identify the trauma patient population for review.	TYPE II
•	16	16-15	16-15 There is a process to address trauma program operational issues.	TYPE II
•	16	16-16	16-16 There is documentation reflecting the review of operational issues and, when appropriate, the analysis and proposed corrective actions.	TYPE II
•	16	16-17	16-17 The process identifies problems.	TYPE II

•	16	16-18	16-18 The process demonstrates problem resolution (loop closure).	TYPE II
•	16	16-19	16-19 There is a trauma multidisciplinary peer review committee with participation by the trauma medical director or designee and representatives from general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, and anesthesia.	TYPE II
•	16	16-20	16-20 The attendance by the trauma medical director and the specialty representatives is at least 50%.	TYPE II
•	16	16-21	16-21 The core general surgeon attendance at the trauma peer review committee is at least 50%.	TYPE II
•	16	16-22	16-22 In circumstances when attendance is not mandated (non-core members), the trauma medical director ensures dissemination of information from the trauma peer review committee.	TYPE II
•	16	16-23	16-23 The trauma medical director documents the dissemination of information from the trauma peer review committee.	TYPE II
•	16	16-24	16-24 Evidence of appropriate participation and acceptable attendance is documented in the PIPS process.	TYPE II
•	16	16-25	16-25 Deaths are systematically categorized as preventable, non-preventable, or potentially preventable. **Refer to FAQ, http://www.facs.org/trauma/optimalcare.pdf -- New nomenclature (Effective January 2012)**	TYPE II
•	16	16-26	16-26 When a consistent problem or inappropriate variation is identified, corrective actions are taken and documented.	TYPE II
•	16	16-27	16-27 The performance improvement program must be consistently functional, with structure and process.	TYPE I
•	17	17- 1	must be consistently functional, with structure and process. (16.27)	TYPE II
•	17	17- 3	17-3 The trauma center is involved in prevention activities, including public educational activities.	TYPE II
•	17	17- 6	17-6 The hospital provides a mechanism for trauma-related education for nurses involved in trauma care.	TYPE II
•	17	17- 7	17-7 All general surgeons and emergency medicine physicians on the trauma team have successfully completed the ATLS® course at least once.	TYPE II
•	18	18- 1	18-1 The trauma center participates in injury prevention.	TYPE II
•	20	20- 1	20-1 The hospital meets the disaster-related requirements of JCAHO.	TYPE II
•	20	20- 2	20-2 A trauma panel surgeon is a member of the hospital's disaster committee.	TYPE II

•	20	20- 3	20-3 Hospital drills that test the individual hospital's disaster plan are conducted at least every 6 months.	TYPE II
•	20	20- 4	20-4 The trauma center has a hospital disaster plan described in the hospital disaster manual.	TYPE II
•	21	21- 1	21-1 The trauma center has an established relationship with a recognized OPO.	TYPE II
•	21	21- 2	21-2 There are written policies for triggering notification of the OPO.	TYPE II
•	21	21- 3	21-3 The PIPS process reviews the organ donation rate.	TYPE II
•	21	21- 4	21-4 There are written protocols for declaration of brain death.	TYPE II

PIPS	Performance Improvement and Patient Safety
Core Group	Definition of Core = Those surgeons identified by the trauma medical director who participate in the Trauma Multidisciplinary Peer Review Committee meetings and take 60% of the trauma call.