



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Policy No. 7040
Reviewed 01/07

Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: TRAUMA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND SYSTEM EVALUATION

Authority for this policy are found in Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163 California Code of Regulations Section 100255, 100258, 100265 and California Evidence Code, Section 1157.7

I. Purpose

To establish a systemwide Quality Improvement (QI) program for evaluating the Santa Cruz EMS Trauma System in order to foster continuous improvement in performance and patient care. In addition, it will assist Santa Cruz EMS in defining standards; evaluating methodologies and utilizing the evaluation results for continued system improvement.

II. Definition

“Quality Improvement” (or Quality Assurance) means a method of evaluation of services provided, which includes defined standards, evaluation methodologies and utilization of evaluation results for continued system improvement. Such methods may include, but not limited to, a written plan describing the program objectives, organizations, scope and mechanisms for overseeing the effectiveness of the program.

III. Policy:

Trauma system participants within the Santa Cruz System will maintain a comprehensive quality program.

A. TRAUMA SYSTEM – QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

1. The Santa Cruz EMS Trauma QI Plan consists of the following elements:
 - a) An internal comprehensive quality improvement process.
 - b) A periodic local audit of the trauma care provided by receiving hospitals in Santa Cruz County.
 - c) An ongoing external medical audit of case reviews by the Trauma Audit Committees both in-county and out-of-county.
2. Trauma Systems Review – Santa Cruz EMS will be responsible an annual review of the trauma system, which will be conducted at least every two (2) years. The template for this review will be developed and approved by the Trauma Audit Committee.

3. Local Trauma Audit Committee (TAC) – TAC is a multidisciplinary medical advisory committee to the EMS Medical Director, comprised of representatives from surgical and non-surgical specialties. This is a closed committee.