



Policy 107: Trauma Quality Improvement and System Evaluation

Revision 5/22/18
Effective 8/1/18

I. Purpose

- A. To establish a system-wide Quality Improvement (QI) program for evaluating the Santa Cruz EMS Trauma System 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.
- B. 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

II. Definition

- A. "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:

- A. Trauma system participants within the Santa Cruz System will maintain a comprehensive quality program.
- B. Quality Improvement Plan:
 - 1. The Santa Cruz EMS Trauma QI Plan consists of the following elements:
 - a) An internal comprehensive quality improvement process (See Policy 101 Quality Improvement Program and System Evaluation)
 - 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
 - a) 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 Quality Improvement Committee.