



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ARKANSAS TRAUMA CENTER DESIGNATION CRITERIA

The *Arkansas Trauma System Rules and Regulations (Rules)*, promulgated by the Arkansas State Board of Health, establish the criteria for the designation of trauma centers in the state.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has created a stratification system for the designation criteria that places the greatest emphasis on those requirements that are critical to the safety of patients following a traumatic event. This system consists of the following three categories:

Type I deficiency : Lack of such a resource would create an unsafe environment for the care of injured patients.

Ramifications for designation: Any facility that receives a Type I deficiency shall not be designated as an Arkansas trauma center. The facility must submit a new application for designation. This cannot be done earlier than six months following the site survey that resulted in the denial of designation. (See Section VI., B., 2., d. of the *Rules*)

Type II deficiency : Lack of such a resource, while not creating an unsafe environment for the care of injured patients, is a significant problem that must be corrected within one year of the site survey that resulted in the provisional designation (see below).

Ramifications for designation: Any facility that receives one or more Type II deficiencies shall receive a provisional designation. This temporary approval is valid for one year from the site survey that resulted in the provisional designation, during which time the facility shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a designated trauma center. The facility is required to submit a corrective action plan to the Trauma Section for approval within 90 days of the date of the Section's designation letter to the facility. All Type II deficiencies shall be corrected within the provisional year. If, after a focused review (either on-site or a "paper" review), it is determined the facility has corrected the deficiencies, a full designation will be granted for an additional two years. The Section reserves the right to deny designation to a facility that is determined to have an inordinate number of Type II deficiencies (i.e., those so great in number that a viable trauma program does not exist in the facility). This determination will be made by the Trauma Section with input from the site surveyors and the Trauma Advisory Council's (TAC) Site Survey and Assessment Panel (see Section VI., B., 2., b. of the *Rules*).

Weaknesses: Shortcomings in the facility's trauma program that do not rise to the level of Type I or II deficiencies.

Ramifications for designation: None. Weaknesses are provided to the facility in the Executive Summary during the exit conference at the conclusion of the site survey. Recommendations regarding each of the weaknesses will also be furnished in this document. They are provided merely as guide to hospital administration and the trauma program leadership in order to assist the facility in improving its trauma program. It is noted that strengths are also provided in this manner.

Based on the above criteria, the types of designations are as follows:

Full Designation -A facility will be considered for full, unconditional designation if it is judged to have no deficiencies.

Provisional Designation - A facility can be given a provisional designation if it has no Type I Deficiencies. A provisional designation allows the facility to operate as an Arkansas Trauma Center for a period of one year before a re-survey by the ADH. A re-survey can be a full or focused survey. All deficiencies must be corrected in the provisional year. Deficiencies related to quality improvement will mandate an on-site survey.

Non-Designation - A facility will not be considered for designation if it possesses any Type I Deficiencies. Failure to be designated would require the facility to re-apply to the ADH for designation and will require a full survey.