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TITLE 64  
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BOARD OF HEALTH

SERIES 27  
TRAUMA CENTER OR FACILITY DESIGNATION

**§64-27-1. General.**

1.1. Scope - This legislative rule establishes the standards, criteria and methods of designating various health care facilities in the State of West Virginia as meeting specific levels of care capability as trauma centers or facilities in order to identify those facilities best equipped and staffed to care for the critically injured patient.

1.2. Authority - W. Va. Code §16-4C-1

1.3. Filing Date - April 18, 1988

1.4. Effective Date - April 18, 1988

**§64-27-2. Supersession and Repeal of Former Rules.**

This rule supersedes and repeals Trauma Center or Facility Designation, West Virginia Department of Health Legislative Rules, 64 C.S.R. 27, 1986.

**§64-27-3. Application and Enforcement.**

3.1. Application - This rule shall apply to all health care institutions, facilities, hospitals, clinics, corporations, partnerships and governmental agencies engaged in the provision of care to critically injured patients in the state.

3.2. Enforcement - The enforcement of this rule is vested with the director of the West Virginia department of health or his lawful designee.

**§64-27-4. Definitions.**

4.1. Level II - This means a health care facility which meets most but not all of the standards, criteria, resources and capabilities of trauma care as listed

herein (Advanced).

4.2. American College of Surgeons Guidelines - A listing of hospital resources necessary for optimal care of the injured patient as published by the American College of Surgeons in 1986 in the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons.

4.3. Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency - One of several multi-county operational agencies established by the office of emergency medical services for the purpose of coordinating the development, implementation and planning for emergency medical services within the regional area. Each region is staffed by area program personnel who function under a board of directors appointed by the several emergency medical services regions served.

4.4. Basic - This means a health care facility which meets the minimum standards, criteria, resources and capabilities of trauma care as listed herein.

4.5. Board - Means the West Virginia board of health.

4.6. Level I - This means a health care facility which meets all of the standards, criteria, resources and capabilities of trauma care as listed herein (Comprehensive).

4.7. Critical Care Committee - A committee established at the regional and state emergency medical service agency level, composed of specialty physicians representing the eight critical patient care areas of trauma, cardiac, high risk infant, poisoning, drug and alcohol detoxification, behavioral, spinal and burn for the purpose of advising the respective agency on medical care principles and activities, including categorization of health care facilities.

4.8. **Dedesignation** - This means the withdrawal of a previous designation level by the West Virginia department of health when it is determined by review and audit of an institution that such institution no longer meets the standards, criteria, resource availability or commitment for trauma care

4.9. **Designation** - This means an official notification from the West Virginia department of health to a particular health care facility indicating the level of trauma care capability determined by the site visit process.

4.10. **Level III** - This means a health care facility that meets some of the standards, criteria, resources and capabilities of trauma care as listed herein, but does not have the specialty care capabilities to manage the more severely injured patient throughout the course of hospitalization (Intermediate).

4.11. **Levels of Care Capability** - This refers to the resources, staffing, equipment and commitment that a particular health care facility evidences in the trauma care area. The terms comprehensive, advanced, intermediate and basic are used to identify the various levels.

4.12. **Office of Emergency Medical Services** - An official division of the West Virginia department of health.

4.13. **Proposal** - A document submitted by a health care facility which indicates the existing resources, care capability, commitments and cooperative assurances of that institution in regards to trauma care. Normally, the proposal process will be used when two or more institutions located in the same community or general area are competing for designation at a particular level.

4.14. **West Virginia Categorization Committee** - A committee appointed by the director of the department of health to periodically review and recommend changes in the West Virginia State Emergency Facility Categorization Plan. The committee shall be composed of three (3) representatives each of the West Virginia State Medical Association, the West Virginia State Hospital Association, the West Virginia regional or area Emergency Medical Service agencies, regional Emergency Medical Service Medical Directors, two (2) each from the West Virginia Chapter of the

American College of Emergency Physicians, the West Virginia Nurses Association, the West Virginia Emergency Department Nurses Association, one (1) from the West Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine and three (3) representatives from the public at large. The director of health may name additional representatives to the committee at his discretion.

#### **§64-27-5. Site Visit.**

No health care facility center, unit or hospital shall be designated in accordance with the following process without a site visit being performed by individuals authorized to perform such site visit by the West Virginia department of health.

#### **§64-27-6. General Criteria for Determining Trauma Care Capability.**

6.1. **Basic** - A facility which is capable of caring for a minimally injured patient and is able through its medical staff to stabilize patients with more severe injuries prior to transfer to a facility with higher care capability.

6.2. **Level III - (Intermediate)** An institution with approximately one hundred (100) to two hundred fifty (250) beds which has a clear commitment to excellence of trauma care. Transfer protocols in selected specialty areas are required.

6.3. **Level II - (Advanced)** An institution with approximately two hundred (200) to five hundred (500) beds which treats approximately three hundred fifty (350) to six hundred (600) urgent or severely injured patients per year.

6.4. **Level I - (Comprehensive trauma facility)** A hospital operating in a metropolitan area and experiencing approximately six hundred (600) to one thousand (1,000) admissions per year of seriously injured patients, or the treatment of approximately fifty (50) urgent and severely injured patients per year for each surgeon taking trauma call.

#### **§64-27-7. Specific Standards and Criteria for Designation of Health Care Facilities as Trauma Centers.**

7.1. **Basic Level Facility (No National Level Designated)**

## 7.1.1. Care Capability

A. The hospital and its medical and nursing staffs are capable of treating and stabilizing patients with.

1. Closed fractures
2. Soft tissue injuries with stabilized bleeding
3. Multiple rib fractures without flail chest
4. Blunt abdominal trauma not producing hypotension

## B. Required resources and equipment:

1. X-Ray facilities with adequate interpretation and laboratory facilities, both available twenty four (24) hours a day
2. Regularly available physicians capable of caring for the patient injuries described in A. above
3. Experienced nurses available to care for and evaluate such patients
4. Available stored blood
5. Cut-down trays
6. Surgical supplies for hemostasis and wound repair
7. Splints and slings
8. Oxygen supplies
9. Nasogastric tube sets
10. Suction equipment
11. Parenteral fluids and infusion equipment including dextran or similar product and blood administration sets
12. Standard emergency drugs
13. Stretchers capable of Trendelenberg position

14. Electrocardioscope-graph- defibrillator equipment

## 7.2. Level III Trauma Center (Intermediate)

7.2.1. Care Capability - The hospital and its medical, nursing and administrative staffs are capable of treating and stabilizing patients with most types of traumatic injuries. Available resources include all those listed under "Basic Level Facility," plus the following:

## A. Hospital organization:

1. Departments/divisions/services or sections which are staffed by qualified physicians:

## a. Required:

- (1) General surgery
- (2) Trauma service

2. Surgical specialties availability. On-call and promptly available from inside or outside the hospital (May be fulfilled by residents capable of assessing emergency situations in their respective specialties and of providing any immediately indicated treatment. When residents are used to fulfill availability requirements, staff specialists are to be on-call and promptly available for consultation )

## a. Required:

- (1) General surgery specialists

## b. Recommended/Desired:

- (1) Ophthalmic surgery specialists
- (2) Orthopedic surgery specialists
- (3) Otorhinolaryngologic surgery specialists
- (4) Plastic and maxillofacial surgery specialists
- (5) Thoracic surgery specialists
- (6) Urologic surgery specialists
- (7) Neurological surgery specialists

3. Non-surgical specialties availability:  
(May be fulfilled by residents as before specified)

a. Required:

- (1) Emergency medicine
- (2) Anesthesia department (May be physician-directed program staffed by nurse anesthetists.)
- (3) Internal medicine
- (4) Pathology

b. Recommended/Desired:

- (1) Cardiology
- (2) Hematology
- (3) Nephrology
- (4) Pediatrics
- (5) Radiology

B. Special facilities, resources and capabilities

1. Emergency department:

a. Personnel: (required)

- (1) Designated medical director
- (2) Physician(s) with special competence in the care of the critically injured patient who are on duty in the emergency department twenty four (24) hours a day
- (3) Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurses' aides in adequate numbers

b. Equipment for resuscitation and to provide life support for the critically or seriously injured patient shall include, but not be limited to the following: (required)

- (1) Airway control and ventilation equipment, including laryngoscopes and endotracheal tubes of all sizes, bag-mask resuscitator, sources of

oxygen and mechanical ventilator

(2) Suction devices

(3) Electrocardiograph-scope defibrillator

(4) Apparatus to monitor central venous pressure

(5) All standard intravenous fluids and administration devices, including intravenous catheters

(6) Sterile surgical sets for procedures standard for emergency departments, such as thoracotomy, cut-down trays, etc.

(7) Gastric lavage equipment

(8) Drugs and supplies necessary for emergency care

(9) Two-way radio linked with vehicles of emergency transport system and with essential on-call physicians in-hospital

(10) X-ray capability, twenty four (24) hour coverage by technicians

(11) MAST garment (Medical Anti-shock Trousers)

(12) Skeletal tongs

2. Intensive care unit for trauma patients (May be separate specialty units.):

a. Required:

- (1) Designated medical director
- (2) Physician on duty or immediately available from inside the hospital
- (3) Nurse-patient ratio at a minimum of 1:2 on each shift
- (4) Immediate access to clinical laboratory services
- (5) Equipment required:

- tion devices
- tration controls
- pacemaker
- defibrillator
- rator
- ing device
- (patient)
- ment
- supplies
- (a) Airway control and ventila-
- (b) Oxygen source with concen-
- (c) Cardiac emergency cart
- (d) Temporary transvenous
- (e) Electrocardiograph-scope-
- (f) Mechanical ventilator- respi-
- (g) Pulmonary function measur-
- (h) Temperature control devices
- (i) Pressure distribution equip-
- (j) Drugs, intravenous fluids and
- (k) Patient weighing devices

b. Recommended/Desired:

- (1) Physician on duty or immediate-ly available from inside the hospital
- (2) Cardiac output monitoring de-  
vices
- (3) Electronic pressure monitoring  
devices
- (4) Intracranial pressure monitor-  
ing devices

3. Postanesthetic recovery room (a surgi-  
cal intensive care unit is acceptable):

a. Required:

- (1) Registered nurses and other es-  
sential personnel available twenty four (24) hours a  
day

(2) Appropriate monitoring and re-  
suscitation equipment

4. Hemodialysis

a. Recommended/Desired:

(1) Acute hemodialysis capability  
or transfer agreements in place

5. Organized burn care

a. Essential - Required.

(1) Physician-directed burn center  
staffed by nursing personnel trained in burn care and  
equipped properly for care of the extensively burned  
patient, or

(2) Transfer agreement with near-  
by burn center or hospital with a burn unit.

6. Acute Spinal Cord/Head Injury Man-  
agement Capability

a. Essential - Required

(1) In circumstances where a desig-  
nated spinal cord injury rehabilitation center exists  
in the region, early transfer should be considered;  
transfer agreements should be in effect.

(2) In circumstances where a head  
injury center exists in the region, transfer should be  
considered in selected patients; transfer agreements  
should be in effect.

7. Radiological Special Capabilities

a. Recommended/Desired

(1) Angiography of all types

8. Rehabilitation Medicine

a. Essential

(1) Physician-directed rehabilita-  
tion service staffed by nursing personnel trained in  
rehabilitation care and equipped properly for care of  
the critically ill patient, or

(2) Transfer agreement when med-

ically feasible to a nearby rehabilitation service.

C. Operating suite special requirements, equipment and instrumentation:

1. Required:

a. Thermal control equipment for patients and blood supplies

b. X-ray capability

c. Endoscopes, all varieties

d. Monitoring equipment

2. Recommended/Desired:

a. Operating room adequately staffed and immediately available twenty four (24) hours a day

b. Craniotome

D. Clinical laboratory services - required twenty four (24) hours a day

1. Standard analysis of blood, urine

2. Blood typing and cross-matching

3. Coagulation studies capability

4. Comprehensive blood bank or access to a community central blood bank and adequate hospital storage facilities

5. Blood gases and pH determinations

6. Microbiology

Recommended/Desired

1. Serum and urine osmolality determinations

2. Drug and alcohol screening

E. Programs for quality assurance - required

1. Organized quality assurance program

2. Special audits for trauma deaths

3. Trauma morbidity and mortality reviews

4. Medical nursing audits, utilization review and tissue review

5. Trauma registry review

6. Review of pre-hospital and regional systems of trauma care (desired)

F. Public education program (recommended/desired)

a. Program(s) to cover injury prevention in the home, in industry, on the highway and on athletic fields. To include programs of standard first aid, problems confronting the public, medical profession and hospitals regarding optimal care for the injured patient.

G. Trauma Research Program (desired)

H. Training Program (desired)

1. Formal programs in continuing education provided by hospital for:

a. Staff physicians

b. Nurses

c. Allied health personnel

d. Community physicians

7.3. Level II Trauma Center (Advanced)

7.3.1. Care Capability - The hospital and its medical, nursing and administrative staffs are capable of treating and stabilizing patients with all but the most serious or complicated traumatic injuries. Resources include all of those required elements of basic and intermediate trauma facilities, plus the following:

A. Hospital organization:

1. Departments/divisions/services or sections which are staffed by qualified physicians:

a. Required:

(1) Neurologic surgery

(2) Orthopedic surgery

(3) Trauma Service

b. Recommended/Desired:

(1) Cardiothoracic surgery

(2) Obstetrics-gynecologic surgery

(3) Ophthalmic surgery

(4) Oral surgery (dental)

(5) Otorhinolaryngologic surgery

(6) Pediatric surgery

(7) Plastic and maxillofacial surgery

(8) Urologic surgery

2. Surgical specialties availability: (Requirement may be fulfilled by residents capable of assessing emergency situations in their respective fields and of providing any immediately indicated treatment. When residents are used to fulfill availability requirements, staff specialists are to be on-call and promptly available for consultation.)

a. Required:

(1) General surgery- in-hospital twenty four (24) hours a day: (May be fulfilled when local conditions insure that the physician will be in the emergency department at the time of the patient's arrival.)

(2) Neurologic surgery - An attending neurosurgeon must be promptly available and dedicated to that hospital's trauma service. The in-house requirement may be fulfilled by an in-house neurosurgeon or surgeon (or physician in Level II facilities) who has special competence, as judged by the chief of neurosurgery, in the care of patients with neural trauma, and who is capable of initiating measures directed toward stabilizing the patient and initiating diagnostic procedures.

(3) On-call and promptly available

from inside or outside the hospital:

(a) Ophthalmic surgery

(b) Orthopedic surgery

(c) Otorhinolaryngologic surgery

(d) Plastic and maxillofacial surgery

(e) Thoracic surgery

(f) Urologic surgery

b. Recommended/Desired:

(1) On-call and promptly available from inside or outside the hospital.

(a) Cardiac surgery

(b) Microsurgical capabilities

(c) Gynecologic surgery

(d) Pediatric surgery

(e) Hand surgery

(f) Oral surgery (dental)

3. Non-surgical specialties availability: (May be fulfilled by residents as specified previously.)

a. Required:

(1) In hospital twenty four (24) hours a day:

(a) Emergency medicine

(b) Anesthesiology (may be physician directed program staffed by nurse anesthetist.)

(2) On-call and promptly available from inside or outside the hospital:

(a) Cardiology

(b) Hematology

(c) Nephrology

(d) Pathology

(e) Pediatrics

(f) Radiology

b. Recommended/Desired

(1) On-call and promptly available from inside or outside the hospital:

(a) Gastroenterology

(b) Infectious disease

(c) Psychiatry

(d) Chest medicine

B. Special facilities, resources and capabilities:

1. Emergency department: As before under Level III

2. Intensive care unit(s):

a. Required:

(1) Physician on duty in ICU twenty four (24) hours a day or immediately from in-hospital

(2) Cardiac output monitoring device

(3) Electronic pressure monitoring device

(4) Patient weighing devices

(5) Intracranial pressure monitoring devices

3. Postanesthetic recovery room: As before under level III.

4. Hemodialysis capability: Recommended/Desired

5. Radiological special capabilities:

a. Required:

(1) Angiography capability

(2) In-hospital computerized tomography (or equivalent), with technicians

b. Recommended/Desired:

(1) Sonography

(2) Nuclear scanning

6. Rehabilitation Medicine: (Essential - Required)

C. Operating suite special requirements, equipment and instrumentation:

1. Required:

a. Operating room adequately staffed and immediately available twenty four (24) hours a day

b. Craniotome

2. Recommended/Desired:

a. Cardiopulmonary bypass capability

b. Operating microscope

D. Clinical laboratory services: As before under Level III

1. Required:

a. Drug and alcohol screening

E. Quality assurance: Same as Level III

1. Trauma Conference, multidisciplinary, required

F. Public education programs to cover injury prevention in the home, in industry, on the highway and on athletic fields. To include programs of standard first aid, problems confronting the public, medical profession and hospitals regarding optimal care for the injured patient.

G. Outreach program with telephone and on-site consultations with physicians of the community and outlying areas

H. Training program: Required

1. Formal program in continuing education provided by the hospital for:

- a. Staff physicians
- b. Nurses
- c. Allied health personnel
- d. Community physicians

I. Trauma Research Program (desired)

7.4. Level I Trauma Center (Comprehensive)

7.4.1. Care Capability - The hospital and its medical, nursing and administrative staffs are capable of treating and stabilizing patients with all types of trauma within the existing state of the art technology and knowledge. The facility or center operates as a dedicated trauma service with all of the resources and capabilities afforded to the other national Level I (Comprehensive) trauma centers across the nation.

The resources available to the comprehensive trauma facility include all of those previously listed as required for "Basic," "Intermediate" and "Advanced" trauma facilities, plus the following:

A. Hospital organization:

1. Required departments/divisions/services or sections which are staffed by qualified physicians:

- a. Cardiothoracic surgery service
- b. Ophthalmic surgery service
- c. Otorhinolaryngologic surgery service
- d. Pediatric surgery service
- e. Plastic and maxillofacial surgery service

f. Urologic surgery service

2. Surgical specialties availability: (On-call and promptly available from inside or outside the hospital)

a. Required:

- (1) Cardiac surgery specialist
- (2) Microsurgery capabilities
- (3) Gynecologic surgery specialist
- (4) Pediatric surgery specialist
- (5) Hand surgery specialist
- (6) Oral surgery (dental) specialist

3. Non-surgical specialties availability: (Resident services as previously indicated for Levels II and III)

a. Required:

- (1) Gastroenterology
- (2) Infectious disease
- (3) Nephrology
- (4) Chest medicine
- (5) Psychiatry

b. Recommended/Desired:

- (1) Neuroradiology

B. Special facilities; resources and capabilities:

1. Emergency department - As before for Level II
2. Intensive care unit(s): As before for Level II
3. Postanesthetic recovery room: (Surgical intensive care unit is acceptable) - As before for Level II

4. Hemodialysis capability required

5. Radiological special capabilities:

a. Required:

(1) Sonography

(2) Nuclear scanning

(3) Computerized tomography or equivalent twenty four (24) hours a day availability.

6. Rehabilitation medicine - Required

C. Operating suite special requirements, equipment and instrumentation:

1. Cardiopulmonary bypass capability

2. Operating microscope - Required

D. Clinical laboratory services: As before for Level II

E. Programs for quality assurance - Required:

1. Review of pre-hospital and regional systems of trauma care

F. Outreach program with telephone and on-site consultation with physicians of the community and outlying areas - Required

G. Trauma research program: Required

1. A defined and documented program for the study of the various aspects of trauma treatment, diagnosis, management and patient response must be provided.

#### **§64-27-8. Notification and Site Visit Process.**

8.1. The designation of health care facilities providing emergency or critical trauma care services to patients in this state shall be accomplished in a manner consistent with mutual cooperation of the facility to be evaluated and the agency performing or causing to be performed the site visit intended to obtain the necessary facts and information to facilitate such designation.

8.2. The evaluation process shall only address the resources, equipment, care capability and commitment for trauma care on the part of the institution and its medical, nursing and administrative staffs, as recommended by the West Virginia Categorization Committee and published by the West Virginia department of health office of emergency medical services.

8.3. Notification of Intention to Perform a Site Visit - The regional emergency medical services agency through its board of directors shall notify in writing each health care institution within the emergency medical services regional borders that a site visit by qualified physicians and others is to be accomplished upon acceptance in writing of such site visit by the health care facility, institution, clinic, center, unit or hospital.

8.4. The site visit team as selected by the regional emergency medical services board of directors and approved by the West Virginia department of health shall include specialists in the care of traumatized patients and if necessary, other medical specialists, as well as others appointed by the board of directors to assist in the site visit process.

8.5. Each facility to be visited shall be provided a copy of this rule as well as a copy of the evaluation form or forms to be used by the site visit team, such copies to be provided free of charge by the regional emergency medical services agency involved.

8.6. The hospital and its medical staff shall appoint appropriate individuals to accompany the site visit team and provide access to the various clinical and administrative areas of the hospital during the site visit.

8.7. Patient confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process and names or other patient identifying information shall not be published or recorded in any form by the site visit team. Review of patient records by physician members of the team shall be permitted even though the physicians may not be members of the hospital medical staff. The hospital may require that one of their medical staff or medical records personnel accompany the site visit team physician or physicians during review of patient records.

8.8. The site visit team leader, previously appointed by the regional emergency medical services board

of directors, shall review the results of the survey prior to departing the hospital or facility in order to give the hospital administrator and the medical staff representative a preliminary judgment as to the level of trauma care determined. Such verbal reports shall not be interpreted as final, but shall be used to allow the hospital and its medical staff the opportunity of preparing a response upon official notification and to allow the re-evaluation of specific areas by the site visit team leader or his representative(s) if significant changes are made prior to submission of the results of the site visit to the regional emergency medical services board of directors.

8.9. The regional emergency medical services board of directors may delegate to its critical care committee and the regional emergency medical services medical director the authority to carry out the entire site visit process, but the ultimate responsibility for the actions of the critical care committee and emergency medical services medical director remains with the regional emergency medical services board of directors.

8.10. The regional emergency medical services board of directors or its designee shall prepare a report indicating the findings of the site visit team and recommend to the West Virginia department of health office of emergency medical services the levels of trauma care capability for each health care facility, institution, clinic, center, unit or hospital so evaluated. A copy of the final recommendations related to each facility shall be sent to each facility individually with no reference to the findings on other facilities included in such report. The report to the state office of emergency medical services shall be prepared in matrix form showing the name of each facility in the left hand column and the level of care capability in rows across the top of the page. In addition, the report to the state office shall contain the names of the individuals participating in the site visits and any other pertinent comments related to the acceptance of the verbal report by the hospital administrative or medical personnel.

8.11. Upon receipt of the recommendations from the regional emergency medical services board of directors, the state office of emergency medical services shall prepare a letter of provisional designation to each facility. Such designation shall be limited to trauma care capability and shall not be interpreted as implying total facility care capability or expertise in other areas of health care.

#### §64-27-9. Designation Process.

9.1. The West Virginia department of health shall have the power to designate health care facilities in the state which meet or exceed the standards and criteria listed herein as "Basic," "Intermediate," "Advanced" or "Comprehensive" trauma facilities, units or centers. Such designation will be provided in writing by the director of the department of health upon determination that the appropriate standards and criteria have been met or exceeded by a health care facility.

9.2. The initial review of a particular health care facility will be accomplished by regional emergency medical service agencies utilizing the standards and criteria listed in this rule and performed in accordance with the mechanisms outlined in Sections 5 and 6 of this rule.

9.3. Upon review and recommendation of the board of directors of the regional emergency medical services agency, or their designated body, the proposed level of designation will be submitted to the West Virginia department of health, office of emergency medical services for review and action.

9.4. The director of the West Virginia department of health shall issue a provisional designation to the health care facility upon determination that the information submitted by the regional emergency medical services agency is in order and reflects compliance with this rule.

9.5. Upon granting the provisional designation, the director or his designee may enlist the assistance of outside reviewers to perform a site visit at the health care facility in order to confirm the original findings. If outside reviewers are not utilized, the director or his designee will perform such site visits accompanied by specialists and others recruited from West Virginia licensed physicians practicing critical care medicine in the specialty or subspecialty related to trauma care.

9.6. Upon verification that the health care facility has met the appropriate criteria and standards, an official letter of designation will be forwarded to the hospital administrator by the director of the West Virginia department of health.

9.7. Should the regional emergency medical service agency refuse or be unable to provide the initial

evaluation through their own resources or from outside consultants, the director shall arrange for such initial appraisal of the institution or institutions in question.

9.8. In areas of the state where the most likely institution for trauma care refuses to allow site visits by the regional emergency medical services agency or the designees of the West Virginia department of health, and, where no other appropriate institution is located within a reasonable distance, the director of the West Virginia department of health or his designee may enter such facility in order to accumulate the necessary information to evaluate the institution's trauma care capability, but no official designation will be made. The level of trauma care capability may be provided to the public and emergency ambulance squads in order to facilitate proper transportation to the most appropriate facility for the care of a particular type of injury.

9.9. No institution, health care facility, unit, center or hospital shall hold itself out to be a trauma center, unit or facility until such time as a designation level is assigned by the director of the West Virginia department of health. Any public advertisement or claim of such trauma care capability on the part of a health care facility prior to receiving the appropriate designation may result in civil proceedings against such institution.

9.10. Any institution, health care facility, unit, center or hospital having received a designation as a trauma center, unit or facility from the West Virginia department of health shall be exempted from the antitrust laws of this state pertaining to antitrust actions brought as a result of such designation by an individual, individuals, corporation, partnership, other health care institution, or governmental agency.

#### **§64-27-10. Review or Audit of Designated Facilities.**

10.1. The director of the West Virginia department of health or his designee shall have the power to periodically review or cause to be reviewed the trauma care capability of a previously designated health care facility. Such review or audit may include a site visit or visits to the institution in order to verify that the original standards and criteria are still in place. Such audit or review may be performed at the discretion of the director of the West Virginia department of health, but in no case more frequently than annually

and with the time and date of such site visit being mutually agreed upon by the official spokesperson of the institution and the director of health.

10.2. The director may authorize qualified individuals outside state government to perform such site visits.

10.3. Should such site visit audit result in a report indicating less than acceptable levels of care capability as indicated by the standards and criteria listed herein, the institution may be dedesignated at a lower level until such time as required to meet the standards and criteria of the previous designation level.

10.4. A health care facility receiving notification from the department of health of its intention to lower the designation level shall be given the opportunity to respond in writing within ten working days upon receipt of such notification of dedesignation. Such response shall contain the reasons for recommending that no change in designation be made. The director of the department of health may revoke the notice of dedesignation based upon factual information provided by the facility that substantially alters the results of the site visit.

#### **§64-27-11. Combined Hospital Designation of Trauma Centers.**

11.1. General - Due to limitations in particular areas of trauma care in basically similar hospitals located in a community, there is a need to recognize the combined capabilities of these hospitals in the designation process.

11.2. Requirements - Two or more hospitals within a particular community which share a common physician attending staff and which would be eligible for a certain designation if the resources of each of the hospitals were to be combined in a trauma care plan, may be individually designated at the combined level. In order to qualify for a combined trauma center designation the following requirements must be met.

11.2.1 A current (annual) written plan of trauma patient care must be available and endorsed by each hospital.

11.2.2 Specific care capabilities for all major injury types must be addressed and the plan must indicate the resources available for treatment of these major injuries, including personnel, equipment and

facilities.

11.2.3. Specific triage protocols (based upon types of injury) must be provided in writing and endorsed by each participating hospital. The medical command center must accept these protocols and follow the triage patterns in directing patient flow.

11.2.4. The participating hospitals must address each of the standards for designation and must as a combined effort, meet the standards upon which designation is based. All facilities may then be designated at that particular level although separately none of the facilities would be capable of meeting all of the standards for such level of care.

11.3. Minimum Care Capabilities - Each facility participating in a combined designation process must meet certain minimum standards in order to be eligible for such combined designation.

11.3.1. Each facility participating in a combined designation process must be capable of meeting all of the required/essential standards of a Level III (Intermediate) trauma center.

11.3.2. Each facility must meet the following Level II standards individually in order to qualify for combined designation as Level II:

A. All of the standards listed under "Hospital organization" as listed under Section 7.3.1., A., of this rule.

B. All standards listed under "Special facilities/resources/capabilities" as listed under Section 7.3.1, B., of this rule.

C. All standards listed under "Operating suite special requirements" as listed under Section 7.3.1., C., of this rule.

11.4. Combined Designation as Level I (Comprehensive) Trauma Center - Each facility must meet as a minimum all of the minimum care capabilities as listed under Section 11.3. above, and in addition, must individually meet the following standards:

11.4.1. All standards under "Special facilities/resources/capabilities," Section 7.4.1., B.

11.4.2. All standards under "Program for quality assurance," Section 7.4.1., B.

11.5. Shared Resources - Other than those requirements listed above under 11.4. and 11.5., all other human resources, specialists, equipment or facilities may be located in one or the other hospital.

11.6. Restrictions - If only a single hospital within a community meets all of the standards of a Level II or above trauma center, then only that hospital may be the designated trauma center for that community or area. All other hospitals approaching Level II, but not meeting all of the standards as required herein for Level II designation shall not be eligible for combined designation as Level II trauma centers.

#### §64-27-12. Proposal Method and Review Process.

12.1. In those cases where it is impractical or when one or more qualified hospitals in a community insists upon designation of the trauma center through the proposal process rather than the method of combined or single designation as previously described, each hospital will be given the opportunity to present a written proposal stating the qualifications of that hospital that would indicate the resources, personnel, equipment and facilities necessary for designation at a particular level. Standard forms for this purpose will be supplied by the West Virginia department of health upon request. Upon receipt of the completed forms from all participating hospitals, the emergency medical services regional board of directors will submit the entire group of proposals to the West Virginia department of health, office of emergency medical services for review and processing.

12.2. Submission of Proposals - Each hospital participating in the proposal process within an emergency medical services region will submit the completed forms to the regional emergency medical services board of directors for review as to completeness and proper preparation. The regional emergency medical services board will make no judgements or decisions regarding the individual proposals, but will provide appropriate written comments as to the compatibility of the proposals with the regional trauma care strategy. Upon receipt and review of a proposal that is found to be incorrectly prepared or is incomplete, the regional emergency medical services board shall return such proposal to the respective hospital for corrections.

12.3. The director of the West Virginia department of health, or his designee, will appoint a site visit team composed of physicians and others familiar with

trauma center designation principles to visit each facility submitting a proposal within a West Virginia emergency medical service region in order to ascertain the validity of the individual proposals and make recommendations regarding the findings of the site visit to the director of health.

12.4. Upon receipt of the site visit reports, the proposal and findings of the site visit team will be evaluated by the director or his designee and outside consultants if necessary, in order to determine which facility, if any, will be designated as the trauma center.

12.5. Written confirmation of the receipt of all materials submitted will be sent to each hospital participating in the proposal process.

12.6. Upon review of the submitted proposals, the director may elect to follow any of the following actions:

12.6.1. Selection of one facility to be designated as the trauma center.

12.6.2. Submit materials or portions of the proposal back to a hospital to obtain additional information or to properly complete the proposal.

12.6.3. Arrange for an additional site visit at one or more hospitals to verify previous findings or to evaluate additional resources.

12.6.4. Make a determination that none of the proposals meet the requirements for any level of designation.

12.6.5. Recommend that two or more facilities request combined designation.

#### **§64-27-13. Appeal Mechanism.**

13.1. Upon receipt of official designation action, a health care facility may appeal the designation through the following mechanism:

13.1.1. The facility may request a re-evaluation of any specific areas by the original site visit team. Should this review remain unchanged and the hospital continue to disagree with any part of the site visit team's findings, the hospital may request review and recommendations by the state critical care committee.

13.1.2. A request for re-evaluation may be made at any time within thirty (30) working days of receipt of the notice of provisional designation from the director by any participating hospital. Requests may be made for re-evaluation at any future time that the hospital administration feels that the level of care has been changed due to improvements, additions or deletions from conditions or resources existing at the time of the original or subsequent site visits.

13.1.3. Requests for re-evaluation must include the specific area or areas of concern on the part of the facility and must include those facts or factors which would significantly affect the level of care previously designated.

13.1.4. A request to the state categorization committee for review of a site visit evaluation which has been acted upon by the regional and state critical care committees will be acted upon by the West Virginia categorization committee within three (3) months of such request on the part of a hospital. This action constitutes the programmatic appeals mechanism and will only be utilized when an agreement cannot be reached between the hospital and the critical care committees.

13.1.5. The West Virginia categorization committee may follow one of several alternatives in reaching a decision:

13.1.5.1. Appointment of a special site visit team, approved by the director, to review the original report and perform an additional evaluation of specific areas of concern and report the findings to the state categorization committee for action.

13.1.5.2. Refer the request to the original critical care committee for review and re-evaluation with specific recommendations as to the action to be taken.

13.1.5.3. Alter the level of care capability previously reported based upon results of the site visit, additional information received from the hospital and make appropriate recommendations to the department of health regarding designation level.

13.1.5.4. Reaffirm the re-evaluation recommended designation level as made by the critical care committees.

13.1.5.5. Regardless of the alternative meth-

od chosen by the state categorization committee, the hospital will be informed by letter from the chairperson of the committee as to the action taken and/or final decision.

**§64-27-14. Administrative Due Process.**

Those persons adversely effected by the enforcement of this rule desiring a contested case hearing to determine any rights, duties, interests or privileges shall do so in a manner prescribed in Rules of Procedure for Contested Case Hearings and Declaratory Rulings, West Virginia Department of Health Proce-

dural Rules, 64 C.S.R. 1. The aforementioned procedural rules are incorporated by reference.

**§64-27-15. Severability.**

If any provisions of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or the application of this rule which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this rule are declared to be severable.