

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to trauma education and training

The Department of Health and Human Services hereby rescinds Chapter 137, “Trauma Education and Training,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 147A.27.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 147A.23.

Purpose and Summary

This chapter was reviewed and is being rescinded and adopted anew as part of the Red Tape Review process laid out by Executive Order 10. Licensed health care providers (e.g., registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) must be prepared with knowledge and skills to provide optimal care to injured patients. Chapter 137 provides guidance to hospitals regarding the minimum educational requirements for health care providers to deliver high-quality trauma care, which will support the well-coordinated statewide trauma system to reduce the incidence of inadequate trauma care and preventable deaths, minimize human suffering, and decrease the costs associated with preventable mortality and morbidity.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 11, 2024, as **ARC 8515C**. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- January 15, 2025
- January 21, 2025

No one attended the public hearings. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Department on March 14, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 441—Chapter 6.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any

individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 1, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 641—Chapter 137 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 137
TRAUMA EDUCATION AND TRAINING

641—137.1(147A) Definitions. For the purposes of these rules, the following definitions apply:

“Advanced registered nurse practitioner” or *“ARNP”* means a nurse as defined in rule 655—7.1(152).

“Formal education” means education in standardized educational settings with a curriculum.

“Licensed practical nurse” or *“LPN”* means an individual licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 152.

“Physician” means an individual licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148.

“Physician assistant” or *“PA”* means an individual licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148C.

“Practitioner” means a person who practices medicine or one of the associated health care professions.

“Registered nurse” or *“RN”* means an individual licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 152.

“Trauma” means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 147A.

“Trauma care facility” means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 147A.

“Trauma patient” means a victim of an external cause of injury that results in major or minor tissue damage or destruction caused by intentional or unintentional exposure to thermal, mechanical, electrical or chemical energy, or by the absence of heat or oxygen.

“Verification” means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 147A.

641—137.2(147A) Initial trauma education requirements.

137.2(1) Trauma education is required of physicians, physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses who are identified or defined as trauma team members by a trauma care facility and who participate directly in the initial resuscitation of the trauma patient.

137.2(2) Requirements for initial trauma education. Specific requirements for initial trauma education for each provider category are as follows:

a. Physicians, PAs and ARNPs shall comply with education criteria specific to the level for which the trauma care facility is verified. Physicians, PAs and ARNPs at verified level I, II, and III trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of Injured Patients 2022 Standards” published by the American College of Surgeons. Physicians, PAs and ARNPs at verified level IV trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014” published by the American College of Surgeons.

b. RNs and LPNs shall comply with education criteria specific to the level for which the trauma care facility is verified. RNs and LPNs at verified level I, II, and III trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of Injured Patients 2022 Standards” published by the American College of Surgeons. RNs and LPNs at verified level IV trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014” published by the American College of Surgeons.

641—137.3(147A) Continuing trauma education requirements. Specific requirements for continuing trauma education for each provider category are as follows:

137.3(1) Physicians, PAs and ARNPs shall comply with education criteria specific to the level for which the trauma care facility is verified. Physicians, PAs and ARNPs at verified level I, II, and III trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of Injured Patients 2022 Standards” published by the American College of Surgeons. Physicians, PAs and ARNPs at verified level IV trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014” published by the American College of Surgeons.

137.3(2) RNs and LPNs shall comply with education criteria specific to the level for which the trauma care facility is verified. RNs and LPNs at verified level I, II, and III trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of Injured Patients 2022 Standards” published by the American College of Surgeons. RNs and LPNs at verified level IV trauma care facilities shall comply with criteria according to the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014” published by the American College of Surgeons.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 147A.

[Filed 3/14/25, effective 6/1/25]

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/2/25.