

CHAPTER 147A

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE — TRAUMA CARE

[P]
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Penalty, general, §147.86

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SUBCHAPTER I

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

147A.1 Definitions.

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Department*” means the Iowa department of public health.
2. “*Director*” means the director of the Iowa department of public health.
3. “*Emergency medical care*” means such medical procedures as:
 - a. Administration of intravenous solutions.
 - b. Intubation.
 - c. Performance of cardiac defibrillation and synchronized cardioversion.
 - d. Administration of emergency drugs as provided by rule by the department.
 - e. Any other medical procedure approved by the department, by rule, as appropriate to be performed by emergency medical care providers who have been trained in that procedure.
4. “*Emergency medical care provider*” means an individual trained to provide emergency and nonemergency medical care at the emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other certification levels adopted by rule by the department, who has been issued a certificate by the department.
5. “*Emergency medical services*” or “*EMS*” means an integrated medical care delivery system to provide emergency and nonemergency medical care at the scene or during out-of-hospital patient transportation in an ambulance.
6. “*Emergency medical services medical director*” means a physician licensed under chapter 148, who is responsible for overall medical direction of an emergency medical

services program and who has completed a medical director workshop, sponsored by the department, within one year of assuming duties. An emergency medical services medical director who receives no compensation for the performance of the director's volunteer duties under this chapter shall be considered a state volunteer as provided in section 669.24 while performing volunteer duties as an emergency medical services medical director.

7. "Physician" means an individual licensed under chapter 148.

8. "Service program" or "service" means any medical care ambulance service or nontransport service that has received authorization from the department under section 147A.5.

9. "Training program" means an Iowa college approved by the north central association of colleges and schools or an Iowa hospital authorized by the department to conduct emergency medical care services training.

[C79, 81, §147A.1]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §1; 86 Acts, ch 1245, §1142; 89 Acts, ch 89, §6; 93 Acts, ch 58, §7; 95 Acts, ch 41, §9; 99 Acts, ch 141, §21; 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §99; 2009 Acts, ch 56, §3; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §6 – 8

[T] Subsection 4 amended

[T] Subsection 6 stricken and former subsection 7 renumbered as 6

[T] Subsections 8 and 9 stricken and former subsection 10 renumbered as 7

[T] NEW subsections 8 and 9

147A.1A Lead agency.

The department is designated as the lead agency for coordinating and implementing the provision of emergency medical services in this state.

93 Acts, ch 58, §2

147A.2 Council established — terms of office.

1. An EMS advisory council shall be appointed by the director. Membership of the council shall be comprised of individuals nominated from, but not limited to, the following state or national organizations: Iowa osteopathic medical association, Iowa medical society, American college of emergency physicians, Iowa physician assistant society, Iowa academy of family physicians, university of Iowa hospitals and clinics, American academy of emergency medicine, American academy of pediatrics, Iowa EMS association, Iowa firemen's association, Iowa professional firefighters, EMS education programs committee, Iowa nurses association, Iowa hospital association, and the Iowa state association of counties. The council shall also include at least two at-large members who are volunteer emergency medical care providers and a representative of a private service program.

2. The EMS advisory council shall advise the director and develop policy recommendations concerning the regulation, administration, and coordination of emergency medical services in the state.

95 Acts, ch 41, §10; 98 Acts, ch 1100, §18; 2001 Acts, ch 74, §5; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §9

[T] Section amended

147A.3 Meetings of the council — quorum — expenses.

Membership, terms of office, quorum, and expenses shall be determined by the director pursuant to chapter 135.

95 Acts, ch 41, §11

147A.4 Rulemaking authority.

1. a. The department shall adopt rules required or authorized by this subchapter pertaining to the operation of service programs which have received authorization under section 147A.5 to utilize the services of certified emergency medical care providers. These rules shall include but need not be limited to requirements concerning physician supervision, necessary equipment and staffing, and reporting by service programs which have received the authorization pursuant to section 147A.5.

b. The director, pursuant to rule, may grant exceptions and variances from the requirements of rules adopted under this subchapter for any service program. Exceptions or variations shall be reasonably related to undue hardships which existing services experience

in complying with this subchapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter. Services requesting exceptions and variances shall be subject to other applicable rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter.

2. The department shall adopt rules required or authorized by this subchapter pertaining to the examination and certification of emergency medical care providers. These rules shall include, but need not be limited to, requirements concerning prerequisites, training, and experience for emergency medical care providers and procedures for determining when individuals have met these requirements. The department shall adopt rules to recognize the previous EMS training and experience of emergency medical care providers transitioning to the emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, and paramedic levels. The department may require additional training and examinations as necessary and appropriate to ensure that individuals seeking transition to another level have met the knowledge and skill requirements. All requirements for transition to another level, including fees, shall be adopted by rule.

3. The department shall establish the fee for the examination of the emergency medical care providers to cover the administrative costs of the examination program.

4. The department shall adopt rules required or authorized by this subchapter pertaining to the operation of training programs. These rules shall include but need not be limited to requirements concerning curricula, resources, facilities, and staff.

[C79, 81, §147A.4; 82 Acts, ch 1005, §1, 2]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §4; 86 Acts, ch 1245, §1143; 89 Acts, ch 89, §7; 93 Acts, ch 58, §3; 95 Acts, ch 41, §12, 28; 99 Acts, ch 141, §22; 2009 Acts, ch 133, §198; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §10

[T] Section amended

147A.5 Applications for emergency medical care services — approval — denial, probation, suspension, or revocation.

1. A service program in this state that desires to provide emergency medical care in the out-of-hospital setting shall apply to the department for authorization to establish a program for delivery of the care at the scene of an emergency, during transportation to a hospital, during transfer from one medical care facility to another or to a private residence, or while in the hospital emergency department, and until care is directly assumed by a physician or by authorized hospital personnel.

2. The department shall approve an application submitted in accordance with subsection 1 when the department is satisfied that the program proposed by the application will be operated in compliance with this subchapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter.

3. The department may deny an application for authorization, or may place on probation, suspend or revoke the authorization of, or otherwise discipline a service program with an existing authorization if the department finds that the service program has not been or will not be operated in compliance with this subchapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter, or that there is insufficient assurance of adequate protection for the public. The authorization denial or period of probation, suspension, or revocation, or other disciplinary action shall be effected and may be appealed as provided by section 17A.12.

[C79, 81, §147A.5]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §5; 86 Acts, ch 1245, §1144; 89 Acts, ch 89, §8; 95 Acts, ch 41, §13; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §11

[T] Subsections 1 and 3 amended

147A.6 Emergency medical care provider certificates — renewal.

1. The department, upon application and receipt of the prescribed fee, shall issue a certificate to an individual who has met all of the requirements for emergency medical care provider certification established by the rules adopted under section 147A.4, subsection 2. All fees received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the emergency medical services fund established in section 135.25.

2. Emergency medical care provider certificates are valid for the multiyear period determined by the department, unless sooner suspended or revoked. The certificate shall be

renewed upon application of the holder and receipt of the prescribed fee if the holder has satisfactorily completed continuing medical education programs as required by rule.

[C79, 81, §147A.6; 82 Acts, ch 1005, §3]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §6; 89 Acts, ch 89, §9; 93 Acts, ch 58, §7; 95 Acts, ch 41, §14; 97 Acts, ch 6, §1

147A.7 Denial, suspension or revocation of certificates — hearing — appeal.

1. The department may deny an application for issuance or renewal of an emergency medical care provider certificate, or suspend or revoke the certificate when it finds that the applicant or certificate holder is guilty of any of the following acts or offenses:

- a. Negligence in performing authorized services.
 - b. Failure to follow the directions of the supervising physician.
 - c. Rendering treatment not authorized under this subchapter.
 - d. Fraud in procuring certification.
 - e. Professional incompetency.
 - f. Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representation in the practice of a profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. Proof of actual injury need not be established.
 - g. Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs.
 - h. Fraud in representations as to skill or ability.
 - i. Willful or repeated violations of this subchapter or of rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter.
 - j. Violating a statute of this state, another state, or the United States, without regard to its designation as either a felony or misdemeanor, which relates to the practice of an emergency medical care provider. A copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty is conclusive evidence of the violation.
 - k. Having certification to practice as an emergency medical care provider revoked or suspended, or having other disciplinary action taken by a licensing or certifying authority of another state, territory, or country. A certified copy of the record or order of suspension, revocation, or disciplinary action is conclusive or prima facie evidence.
2. A determination of mental incompetence by a court of competent jurisdiction automatically suspends a certificate for the duration of the certificate unless the department orders otherwise.
3. A denial, suspension or revocation under this section shall be effected, and may be appealed in accordance with the rules of the department established pursuant to chapter 272C.

[C79, 81, §147A.7]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §7; 89 Acts, ch 89, §10; 93 Acts, ch 58, §4, 7; 95 Acts, ch 41, §15, 16; 99 Acts, ch 141, §23

147A.8 Authority of certified emergency medical care provider.

An emergency medical care provider properly certified under this subchapter may:

1. Render emergency and nonemergency medical care, rescue, and lifesaving services in those areas for which the emergency medical care provider is certified, as defined and approved in accordance with the rules of the department, at the scene of an emergency, during transportation to a hospital or while in the hospital emergency department, and until care is directly assumed by a physician or by authorized hospital personnel.
2. Function in any hospital or any other entity in which health care is ordinarily provided only when under the direct supervision, as defined by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 17A, of a physician, when the emergency care provider is any of the following:
 - a. Enrolled as a student or participating as a preceptor in a training program approved by the department or an agency authorized in another state to provide initial EMS education and approved by the department.
 - b. Fulfilling continuing education requirements as defined by rule.
 - c. Employed by or assigned to a hospital or other entity in which health care is ordinarily provided only when under the direct supervision of a physician, as a member of an

authorized service program, or in an individual capacity, by rendering lifesaving services in the facility in which employed or assigned pursuant to the emergency medical care provider's certification and under the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse. An emergency medical care provider shall not routinely function without the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse. However, when the physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse cannot directly assume emergency care of the patient, the emergency medical care provider may perform without direct supervision emergency medical care procedures for which that individual is certified if the life of the patient is in immediate danger and such care is required to preserve the patient's life.

d. Employed by or assigned to a hospital or other entity in which health care is ordinarily provided only when under the direct supervision of a physician, as a member of an authorized service program, or in an individual capacity, to perform nonlifesaving procedures for which those individuals have been certified and are designated in a written job description. Such procedures may be performed after the patient is observed by and when the emergency medical care provider is under the supervision of the physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse, including when the registered nurse is not acting in the capacity of a physician designee, and where the procedure may be immediately abandoned without risk to the patient.

[C79, 81, §147A.8]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §8; 89 Acts, ch 89, §11; 93 Acts, ch 58, §5, 7; 93 Acts, ch 107, §1; 95 Acts, ch 41, §17; 99 Acts, ch 141, §24; 2000 Acts, ch 1009, §1; 2001 Acts, ch 58, §10; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §263; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §12

[T] Section amended

147A.9 Remote supervision — emergency communication failure — authorization to initiate emergency procedures.

1. When voice contact or a telemetered electrocardiogram is monitored by a physician, physician's designee, or physician assistant, and direct communication is maintained, an emergency medical care provider may upon order of the monitoring physician or upon standing orders of a physician transmitted by the monitoring physician's designee or physician assistant perform any emergency medical care procedure for which that emergency medical care provider is certified.

2. If communications fail during an emergency or nonemergency situation, the emergency medical care provider may perform any emergency medical care procedure for which that individual is certified and which is included in written protocols if in the judgment of the emergency medical care provider the life of the patient is in immediate danger and such care is required to preserve the patient's life.

3. The department shall adopt rules to authorize medical care procedures which can be initiated in accordance with written protocols prior to the establishment of communication.

[C79, 81, §147A.9]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §9; 89 Acts, ch 89, §12; 93 Acts, ch 58, §6, 7; 93 Acts, ch 107, §2; 95 Acts, ch 41, §18; 99 Acts, ch 141, §25

147A.10 Exemptions from liability in certain circumstances.

1. A physician, physician's designee, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant who gives orders, either directly or via communications equipment from some other point, or via standing protocols to an appropriately certified emergency medical care provider, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse at the scene of an emergency, and an appropriately certified emergency medical care provider, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse following the orders, are not subject to criminal liability by reason of having issued or executed the orders, and are not liable for civil damages for acts or omissions relating to the issuance or execution of the orders unless the acts or omissions constitute recklessness.

2. A physician, physician's designee, advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or emergency medical care provider

shall not be subject to civil liability solely by reason of failure to obtain consent before rendering emergency medical, surgical, hospital or health services to any individual, regardless of age, when the patient is unable to give consent for any reason and there is no other person reasonably available who is legally authorized to consent to the providing of such care.

3. An act of commission or omission of any appropriately certified emergency medical care provider, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician assistant, while rendering emergency medical care under the responsible supervision and control of a physician to a person who is deemed by them to be in immediate danger of serious injury or loss of life, shall not impose any liability upon the certified emergency medical care provider, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician assistant, the supervising physician, physician designee, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or any hospital, or upon the state, or any county, city or other political subdivision, or the employees of any of these entities; provided that this section shall not relieve any person of liability for civil damages for any act of commission or omission which constitutes recklessness.

[C79, 81, §147A.10]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §10; 89 Acts, ch 89, §13; 93 Acts, ch 107, §3; 95 Acts, ch 41, §19

147A.11 Prohibited acts.

1. Any person not certified as required by this subchapter who claims to be an emergency medical care provider, or who uses any other term to indicate or imply that the person is an emergency medical care provider, or who acts as an emergency medical care provider without having obtained the appropriate certificate under this subchapter, is guilty of a class "D" felony.

2. An owner of an unauthorized service program in this state who operates or purports to operate a service program, or who uses any term to indicate or imply authorization without having obtained the appropriate authorization under this subchapter, is guilty of a class "D" felony.

3. Any person who imparts or conveys, or causes to be imparted or conveyed, or attempts to impart or convey false information concerning the need for assistance of a service program or of any personnel or equipment thereof, knowing such information to be false, is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

[C79, 81, §147A.11]

84 Acts, ch 1287, §11; 89 Acts, ch 89, §14; 95 Acts, ch 41, §20; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §13

[T] Section amended

147A.12 Registered nurse exception.

1. This subchapter does not restrict a registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 152, from staffing an authorized service program provided the registered nurse can document equivalency through education and additional skills training essential in the delivery of out-of-hospital emergency care. The equivalency shall be accepted when:

a. Documentation has been reviewed and approved at the local level by the medical director of the service program in accordance with the rules of the board of nursing developed jointly with the department.

b. Authorization has been granted to that service program by the department.

2. Section 147A.10 applies to a registered nurse in compliance with this section.

84 Acts, ch 1287, §12; 85 Acts, ch 129, §1; 89 Acts, ch 89, §15; 95 Acts, ch 41, §21; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §14

[T] Subsection 1 amended

147A.13 Physician assistant exception.

This subchapter does not restrict a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 148C, from staffing an authorized service program if the physician assistant can document equivalency through education and additional skills training essential in the delivery of out-of-hospital emergency care. The equivalency shall be accepted when:

1. Documentation has been reviewed and approved at the local level by the medical

director of the service program in accordance with the rules of the board of physician assistants developed after consultation with the department.

2. Authorization has been granted to that service program by the department.

93 Acts, ch 107, §4; 95 Acts, ch 41, §22; 2007 Acts, ch 10, §85; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §15

[T] Section amended

147A.14 Enforcement.

Investigators authorized by the department have the powers and status of peace officers when enforcing this chapter.

99 Acts, ch 141, §26

147A.15 Automated external defibrillator equipment — penalty.

Any person who damages, wrongfully takes or withholds, or removes any component of automated external defibrillator equipment located in a public or privately owned location, including batteries installed to operate the equipment, is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

2006 Acts, ch 1184, §89

147A.16 Exception for care within scope of certification.

1. This subchapter does not apply to a registered member of the national ski patrol system, an industrial safety officer, a lifeguard, or a person employed or volunteering in a similar capacity in which the person provides on-site emergency medical care at a facility solely to the patrons or employees of that facility, provided that such person provides emergency medical care only within the scope of the person's training and certification and the person does not claim to be a certified emergency medical care provider or use any other term to indicate or imply that the person is a certified emergency medical care provider.

2. This subchapter does not apply to the national ski patrol system or any similar system in which the system provides on-site emergency medical care at a facility solely to the patrons or employees of that facility, provided that such system does not provide transportation to a hospital or other medical facility and provided that such system does not use any term to indicate or imply authorization to transport patients to a hospital or other medical facility without having obtained proper authorization to transport patients to a hospital or other medical facility under this subchapter.

2006 Acts, ch 1078, §1

147A.17 Applications for emergency medical care services training programs — approval or denial — disciplinary actions.

1. An Iowa college approved by the north central association of colleges and schools or an Iowa hospital in this state that desires to provide emergency medical care services training leading to certification as an emergency medical care provider shall apply to the department for authorization to establish a training program.

2. The department shall approve an application submitted in accordance with subsection 1 when the department is satisfied that the program proposed by the application will be operated in compliance with this subchapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter.

3. The department may deny an application for authorization, or may place on probation, suspend or revoke the authorization of, or otherwise discipline a training program with an existing authorization if the department finds reason to believe the program has not been or will not be operated in compliance with this subchapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter, or that there is insufficient assurance of adequate protection for the public. The authorization denial, period of probation, suspension, or revocation, or other disciplinary action shall be effected and may be appealed as provided by section 17A.12.

2010 Acts, ch 1149, §16

[T] NEW section

147A.18 and 147A.19 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER II

STATEWIDE TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM

147A.20 Short title.

This subchapter may be cited as the “*Iowa Trauma Care System Development Act*”.
95 Acts, ch 40, §1

147A.21 Definitions.

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Categorization*” means a preliminary determination by the department that a hospital or emergency care facility is capable of providing trauma care in accordance with criteria adopted pursuant to chapter 17A for level I, II, III, and IV care capabilities.
2. “*Department*” means the Iowa department of public health.
3. “*Director*” means the director of public health.
4. “*Emergency care facility*” means a physician’s office, clinic, or other health care center which provides emergency medical care in conjunction with other primary care services.
5. “*Hospital*” means a facility licensed under chapter 135B, or a comparable emergency care facility located and licensed in another state.
6. “*Trauma*” means a single or multisystem life-threatening or limb-threatening injury, or an injury requiring immediate medical or surgical intervention or treatment to prevent death or permanent disability.
7. “*Trauma care facility*” means a hospital or emergency care facility which provides trauma care and has been verified by the department as having level I, II, III, or IV care capabilities and issued a certificate of verification pursuant to section 147A.23, subsection 2, paragraph “c”.
8. “*Trauma care system*” means an organized approach to providing personnel, facilities, and equipment for effective and coordinated trauma care.
9. “*Verification*” means a formal process by which the department certifies a hospital or emergency care facility’s capacity to provide trauma care in accordance with criteria established for level I, II, III, and IV trauma care facilities.

95 Acts, ch 40, §2

147A.22 Legislative findings and intent — purpose.

The general assembly finds the following:

1. Trauma is a serious health problem in the state of Iowa and is the leading cause of death of younger Iowans. The death and disability associated with traumatic injury contributes to the significant medical expenses and lost work, and adversely affects the productivity of Iowans.
2. Optimal trauma care is limited in many parts of the state. With health care delivery in transition, access to quality trauma and emergency medical care continues to challenge our rural communities.
3. The goal of a statewide trauma care system is to coordinate the medical needs of the injured person with an integrated system of optimal and cost-effective trauma care. The result of a well-coordinated statewide trauma care system is to reduce the incidences of inadequate trauma care and preventable deaths, minimize human suffering, and decrease the costs associated with preventable mortality and morbidity.
4. The development of the Iowa trauma care system will achieve these goals while meeting the unique needs of the rural residents of the state.

95 Acts, ch 40, §3

147A.23 Trauma care system development.

1. The department is designated as a lead agency in this state responsible for the development of a statewide trauma care system.
2. The department, in consultation with the trauma system advisory council, shall develop,

coordinate, and monitor a statewide trauma care system. This system shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. The categorization of all hospitals and emergency care facilities by the department as to their capacity to provide trauma care services. The categorization shall be determined by the department from self-reported information provided to the department by the hospital or emergency care facility. This categorization shall not be construed to imply any guarantee on the part of the department as to the level of trauma care services available at the hospital or emergency care facility.

b. The issuance of a certificate of verification of all categorized hospitals and emergency care facilities from the department at the level preferred by the hospital or emergency care facility. The standards and verification process shall be established by rule and may vary as appropriate by level of trauma care capability. To the extent possible, the standards and verification process shall be coordinated with other applicable accreditation and licensing standards.

c. Upon verification and the issuance of a certificate of verification, a hospital or emergency care facility agrees to maintain a level of commitment and resources sufficient to meet responsibilities and standards as required by the trauma care criteria established by rule under this subchapter. Verifications are valid for a period of three years or as determined by the department and are renewable. As part of the verification and renewal process, the department may conduct periodic on-site reviews of the services and facilities of the hospital or emergency care facility.

d. The department is responsible for the funding of the administrative costs of this subchapter. Any funds received by the department for this purpose shall be deposited in the emergency medical services fund established in section 135.25.

e. This section shall not be construed to limit the number and distribution of level I, II, III, and IV categorized and verified trauma care facilities in a community or region.

95 Acts, ch 40, §4

147A.24 Trauma system advisory council established.

1. A trauma system advisory council is established. The following organizations or officials may recommend a representative to the council:

- a. American academy of pediatrics.
- b. American college of emergency physicians, Iowa chapter.
- c. American college of surgeons, Iowa chapter.
- d. Department of public health.
- e. Governor's traffic safety bureau.
- f. Iowa academy of family physicians.
- g. Iowa emergency medical services association.
- h. Iowa emergency nurses association.
- i. Iowa hospital association representing rural hospitals.
- j. Iowa hospital association representing urban hospitals.
- k. Iowa medical society.
- l. Iowa osteopathic medical society.
- m. Iowa physician assistant society.
- n. Iowa society of anesthesiologists.
- o. Orthopedic system advisory council of the American academy of orthopedic surgeons, Iowa representative.
- p. Rehabilitation services delivery representative.
- q. State emergency medical services medical director.
- r. State medical examiner.
- s. Trauma nurse coordinator representing a trauma registry hospital.
- t. University of Iowa, injury prevention research center.

2. The council shall be appointed by the director from the recommendations of the organizations in subsection 1 for terms of two years. Vacancies on the council shall be filled for the remainder of the term of the original appointment. Members whose terms expire may be reappointed.

3. The voting members of the council shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson and other officers as the council deems necessary. The officers shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

4. The council shall do all of the following:

a. Advise the department on issues and strategies to achieve optimal trauma care delivery throughout the state.

b. Assist the department in the implementation of an Iowa trauma care plan.

c. Develop criteria for the categorization of all hospitals and emergency care facilities according to their trauma care capabilities. These categories shall be for levels I, II, III, and IV, based on the most current guidelines published by the American college of surgeons committee on trauma, the American college of emergency physicians, and the model trauma care plan of the United States department of health and human services' health resources and services administration.

d. Develop a process for the verification of the trauma care capacity of each facility and the issuance of a certificate of verification.

e. Develop standards for medical direction, trauma care, triage and transfer protocols, and trauma registries.

f. Promote public information and education activities for injury prevention.

g. Review the rules adopted under this subchapter and make recommendations to the director for changes to further promote optimal trauma care.

95 Acts, ch 40, §5; 98 Acts, ch 1100, §19; 2001 Acts, ch 74, §6

147A.25 System evaluation and quality improvement committee.

1. The department shall create a system evaluation and quality improvement committee to develop, implement, and conduct trauma care system evaluation, quality assessment, and quality improvement. The director shall appoint the members of the committee which shall include the following:

a. Two trauma surgeons.

b. One neurologic surgeon and one orthopedic surgeon.

c. Two emergency physicians.

d. Two trauma nurse coordinators.

e. Two emergency nurses.

f. Two out-of-hospital emergency medical care providers.

g. Department of public health trauma coordinator.

h. Iowa foundation of medical care director.

i. State emergency medical services medical director.

j. Two anesthesiologists.

k. Two family physicians.

l. Two physician assistants.

2. Proceedings, records, and reports developed pursuant to this section constitute peer review records under section 147.135, and are not subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence. All information and documents received from a hospital or emergency care facility under this subchapter shall be confidential pursuant to section 272C.6, subsection 4.

95 Acts, ch 40, §6

147A.26 Trauma registry.

1. The department shall maintain a statewide trauma reporting system by which the system evaluation and quality improvement committee, the trauma system advisory council, and the department may monitor the effectiveness of the statewide trauma care system.

2. The data collected by and furnished to the department pursuant to this section are confidential records of the condition, diagnosis, care, or treatment of patients or former patients, including outpatients, pursuant to section 22.7. The compilations prepared for release or dissemination from the data collected are not confidential under section 22.7, subsection 2. However, information which individually identifies patients shall not be disclosed and state and federal law regarding patient confidentiality shall apply.

3. To the extent possible, activities under this section shall be coordinated with other health data collection methods.

95 Acts, ch 40, §7; 96 Acts, ch 1079, §7

147A.27 Department to adopt rules.

The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 17A, to implement the Iowa trauma care system plan, which specify all of the following:

1. Standards for trauma care.
2. Triage and transfer protocols.
3. Trauma registry procedures and policies.
4. Trauma care education and training requirements.
5. Hospital and emergency care facility categorization criteria.
6. Procedures for approval, denial, probation, and revocation of certificates of verification.

95 Acts, ch 40, §8

147A.28 Prohibited acts.

A hospital or emergency care facility that imparts or conveys, or causes to be imparted or conveyed, that it is a trauma care facility, or that uses any other term to indicate or imply that the hospital or emergency care facility is a trauma care facility without having obtained a certificate of verification under this subchapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars per day for each offense. In addition, the director may apply to the district court for a writ of injunction to restrain the use of the term “*trauma care facility*”. However, nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to restrict a hospital or emergency facility from providing any services for which it is duly authorized.

95 Acts, ch 40, §9; 95 Acts, ch 209, §21