

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 department of health and human services.
3. “*Director*” means the director of health and human services.
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; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §265](#)