

CHAPTER 134
TRAUMA CARE FACILITY CATEGORIZATION AND VERIFICATION

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/1/30

641—134.1(147A) Definitions. For the purposes of these rules, the following definitions apply:

“*ACS-COT*” means the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

“*Categorization*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.21.

“*Certificate of verification*” means a document awarded by the department that identifies a hospital or emergency care facility’s level and term of verification as a trauma care facility.

“*Criteria deficiency*” or “*deficiency*” means a failure to meet criteria requirements as outlined in subrule 134.2(3).

“*Emergency care facility*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.21.

“*Emergency medical care provider*” means emergency medical care provider as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.1.

“*Final report*” means the verification report issued by the department following a verification review conducted by trauma survey team members and department staff.

“*Governing body*” means a group of individuals responsible for the governance of a hospital, including but not limited to a board of directors or board of trustees.

“*Hospital*” means any hospital licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135B.

“*On-site verification survey*” means an on-site survey conducted by the department or survey team members to assess a hospital or emergency care facility’s ability to meet the level of categorization requested.

“*Persistently occurring deficiencies*” means deficiencies identified in two sequential verification reviews.

“*Trauma*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.21.

“*Trauma care facility*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.21.

“*Trauma survey team*” means a group of health care providers contracted by the department to assist in verifying trauma care facilities’ compliance with trauma criteria adopted in subrule 134.2(3).

“*Type I criteria*” or “*type I criteria deficiency*” indicates criteria requirements that may significantly impact a trauma care facility’s ability to provide optimal care for trauma patients.

“*Type II criteria*” or “*type III criteria deficiency*” indicates criteria that are required but have a less critical impact on the trauma care facility’s ability to provide optimal care for trauma patients than type I criteria.

“*Verification*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.21.

[ARC 9125C, IAB 4/16/25, effective 6/1/25]

641—134.2(147A) Trauma care facility categorization and verification. Categorization and verification of trauma care facilities will be made by the department in accordance with Iowa Code section 147A.23.

134.2(1) Categorization applications shall be submitted by all hospitals. New hospitals and emergency care facilities shall submit a categorization application no later than 90 days after licensing by the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing.

134.2(2) Categorization levels for trauma care facilities shall be identified as:

- a. Level I.
- b. Level II.
- c. Level III.
- d. Level IV.

134.2(3) Adoption by reference. Criteria specific to level I, II, and III trauma care facilities identified in the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient” 2022 Standards published by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) is incorporated and adopted by reference for level I, II, and III hospital and emergency care facility categorization criteria. Criteria specific to level IV trauma care facilities identified in the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014” published by the ACS is

incorporated and adopted by reference for level IV hospital and emergency care categorization criteria. For any differences that may occur between the adopted references and these administrative rules, the administrative rules shall prevail.

134.2(4) 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 a trauma care facility.

134.2(5) A verified trauma care facility may apply to the department for a change in level of categorization through submission of a self-assessment categorization application.

134.2(6) Verification of a trauma care facility will be determined by the department upon successful completion of the categorization application and completion of a verification survey. All categorized hospitals and emergency care facilities shall be verified. Each hospital location operating on a single hospital license must provide the same level of trauma care or be verified separately to the level of trauma care services at that location.

a. Level I and II trauma care facilities shall be verified by the ACS-COT.

b. Trauma care facilities verified by the ACS-COT will be accepted by the department as equivalent for categorization and verification as a trauma care facility in Iowa provided that all policy, reporting, and administrative rules have been met. The department may issue a certification of verification provided that the trauma care facility has been verified by the ACS-COT. The facility shall provide the department documentation including but not limited to a current copy of the ACS-COT verification.

c. A level I or II trauma care facility that fails to attain ACS-COT verification shall submit an application to the department to be verified as a level III or IV trauma care facility to ensure compliance with Iowa Code section 147A.23(2)“a.”

d. Level III and IV trauma care facilities will be verified by the department in consultation with the trauma survey team.

134.2(7) The department will conduct a verification survey for categorized hospitals or emergency care facilities.

a. Type I and II criteria deficiencies identified during the verification process shall be resolved in accordance with the trauma care facility’s final report. Failure to rectify deficiencies in accordance with the trauma care facility’s final report may result in disciplinary action.

b. The department may conduct electronic review or on-site verification that criteria deficiencies have been resolved as outlined in final reports or disciplinary actions.

c. The department will notify the applicant in writing as to the approval or denial of verification as a trauma care facility within 90 days after the completion of a verification survey.

d. Verification cannot be construed to imply any guarantee on the part of the department as to the level of trauma care services available at a hospital or emergency care facility.

e. Trauma care facility verification is valid for a period of three years from the effective date unless otherwise specified on the certificate of verification or unless sooner suspended or revoked.

f. Trauma care facilities shall be fully operational at their verified level upon the effective date specified on the certificate of verification.

g. Trauma care facilities that are unable to maintain their categorization or verification, or both, must notify the department within 48 hours.

h. The director, pursuant to 441—Chapter 2504, may grant a waiver from the requirements of rules adopted under this chapter for any trauma care facility.

i. Proceedings, records, and reports developed pursuant to this chapter constitute peer review records under Iowa Code section 147.135 and are not subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence. All information and documents received from a hospital, emergency care facility, or trauma care facility under Iowa Code chapter 147A are confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4).

[ARC 9125C, IAB 4/16/25, effective 6/1/25; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/10/26]

641—134.3(147A) Complaints, investigations and appeals.

134.3(1) The department may deny verification as a trauma care facility or may give a citation and warning, place on probation, suspend, or revoke existing verification if the department finds reason to believe that the facility has not been operating or will not be operated in compliance with Iowa Code

section 147A.23 and these administrative rules or that there is insufficient assurance of adequate protection for the public.

134.3(2) All complaints regarding the operation of a trauma care facility, or those purporting to be or operating as the same, shall be reported to the department.

134.3(3) Complaints and the investigative process shall be treated as confidential to the extent that they are protected by Iowa Code section 22.7 and chapter 272C.

134.3(4) Complaint investigations may result in the department's issuance of a notice of denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation.

134.3(5) Notice of denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation shall be effected in accordance with the requirements of 441—Chapter 16 and appealed pursuant to 441—Chapter 2506.

134.3(6) Final decisions of the department relating to disciplinary proceedings may be transmitted to the appropriate professional associations, news media or employer.

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