

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 7, 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).

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