

CHAPTER 135
TRAUMA TRIAGE AND TRANSFER PROTOCOLS

641—135.1(147A) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Department*” means the Iowa department of public health.

“*Director*” means the director of the Iowa department of public health.

“*Intertrauma care facility triage and transfer protocol*” means written directives to assist in the decision making, approved by the department and followed by trauma care facility personnel, for the transfer of trauma patients to an appropriate trauma care facility.

“*Out-of-hospital triage and transfer destination decision protocol*” means written directives to assist in the decision making, established and approved by the department, that address the method of transport and trauma care facility destination to be followed by the service program.

“*SEQIC*” means system evaluation quality improvement committee.

“*Service program*” or “*service*” means any medical care ambulance service or nontransport service that has received authorization by the department.

“*System evaluation quality improvement committee*” means the committee established by the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 147A.25 to develop, implement, and conduct trauma care system evaluation, quality assessment, and quality improvement.

“*Transfer*” means the process of a patient being transferred from the scene of an injury to a trauma care facility or from one trauma care facility to another.

“*Trauma care facility*” means a hospital or emergency care facility which provides trauma care and has been verified by the department as having Resource (Level I), Regional (Level II), Area (Level III) or Community (Level IV) care capabilities and has been issued a certificate of verification pursuant to Iowa Code section 147A.23, subsection 2, paragraph “c.”

“*Trauma system advisory council*” means an advisory council established pursuant to Iowa Code section 147A.24 to advise the department on issues and strategies to achieve optimal trauma care delivery throughout the state.

“*Trauma triage and transfer*” means to determine trauma care facility destination and mode of transportation.

“*TSAC*” means trauma system advisory council.

641—135.2(147A) Trauma triage and transfer protocols.

135.2(1) Trauma triage and transfer protocols approved by the department shall be utilized to assist personnel from each service program and trauma care facility. This requirement shall not preclude service programs or trauma care facilities from making emergency revisions of the approved triage and transfer protocols when an incident overburdens medical care resources causing unnecessary delay in patient care.

a. Adoption by reference. The “Out-of-Hospital Trauma Triage Destination Decision Protocol” (Adult and Pediatric, November 2001) and the “Inter-Trauma Care Facility Triage and Transfer Protocol” (August 1996) are incorporated by reference and adopted as the out-of-hospital trauma triage destination decision and the intertrauma care facility triage and transfer protocols. For any differences which may occur between the adopted references and these administrative rules, the administrative rules shall prevail.

b. The out-of-hospital trauma triage destination decision protocol (Adult and Pediatric) and the intertrauma care facility triage and transfer protocol are available through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of EMS, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075, or the bureau of EMS Web site (www.idph.state.ia.us/ems).

c. Revisions and modifications to the out-of-hospital trauma triage destination decision protocol and the intertrauma care facility triage and transfer protocol may be made upon recommendation to the department from the system evaluation quality improvement committee (SEQIC) or the trauma system advisory council (TSAC). Revisions and modifications shall be approved by the department.

d. The director, pursuant to rule, may grant a variance from the requirements of rules adopted under this chapter for any hospital, emergency care facility, or service program provided that the variance is related to undue hardships in complying with this chapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.

135.2(2) Reserved.

641—135.3(147A) Offenses and penalties.

135.3(1) The department may deny verification as a trauma care facility or deny authorization as a service program or may give a citation and warning, place on probation, suspend, or revoke existing trauma care facility verification or service program authorization if the department finds reason to believe that the facility or service program has not been or will not be operated in compliance with Iowa Code section 147A.27 and these administrative rules. The denial, citation and warning, period of probation, suspension, or revocation shall be effected and may be appealed in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code section 17A.12.

135.3(2) All complaints regarding the operation of a trauma care facility or service program, or those purporting to be or operating as the same, shall be reported to the department. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

135.3(3) Complaints and the investigative process shall be treated as confidential to the extent they are protected by Iowa Code section 22.7.

135.3(4) Complaint investigations may result in the department's issuance of a notice of denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation.

135.3(5) Notice of denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation shall be effected in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code section 17A.12. Notice to the alleged violator of denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension, or revocation shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service.

135.3(6) Any request for a hearing concerning the denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation shall be submitted by the aggrieved party in writing to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested, within 20 days of the receipt of the department's notice to take action. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075. If the request is made within the 20-day time period, the notice to take action shall be deemed to be suspended pending the hearing. Prior to or at the hearing, the department may rescind the notice upon satisfaction that the reason for the denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation has been or will be removed. If no request for a hearing is received within the 20-day time period, the department's notice of denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation shall become the department's final agency action.

135.3(7) Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the request shall be forwarded within five working days to the department of inspections and appeals pursuant to the rules adopted by that agency regarding the transmission of contested cases. The information upon which the adverse action is based and any additional information which may be provided by the aggrieved party shall also be provided to the department of inspections and appeals.

135.3(8) The hearing shall be conducted according to the procedural rules of the department of inspections and appeals found in 481—Chapter 10, Iowa Administrative Code.

135.3(9) When the administrative law judge makes a proposed decision and order, it shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service. That proposed decision and order then becomes the department's final agency action without further proceedings ten days after it is received by the aggrieved party unless an appeal to the director is taken.

135.3(10) Any appeal to the director for review of the proposed decision and order of the administrative law judge shall be filed in writing and mailed to the director by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service within ten days after the receipt of the administrative law judge's proposed decision and order by the aggrieved party. A copy of the appeal shall also be mailed to the administrative law judge. Any request for an appeal shall state the reason for appeal.

135.3(11) Upon receipt of an appeal request, the administrative law judge shall prepare the record of the hearing for submission to the director. The record shall include the following:

- a. All pleadings, motions, and rules.
- b. All evidence received or considered and all other submissions by recording or transcript.
- c. A statement of all matters officially noticed.
- d. All questions and offers of proof, objections and rulings on them.
- e. All proposed findings and exceptions.
- f. The proposed decision and order of the administrative law judge.

135.3(12) The decision and order of the director becomes the department's final agency action upon receipt by the aggrieved party and shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or personal service.

135.3(13) It is not necessary to file an application for a rehearing to exhaust administrative remedies when appealing to the director or the district court as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.19. The aggrieved party to the final agency action of the department who has exhausted all administrative remedies may petition for judicial review of that action pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A.

135.3(14) Any petition for judicial review of a decision and order shall be filed in the district court within 30 days after the decision and order becomes final. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be sent to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

135.3(15) The party who appeals a final agency action to the district court shall pay the cost of the preparation of a transcript of the contested case hearing for the district court.

135.3(16) Final decisions of the department relating to disciplinary proceedings may be transmitted to the appropriate professional associations, news media or employer.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 147A.23.

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