

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trauma Facilities, Provisional Trauma Facilities, Trauma Regions, and Trauma Program Managers

FROM: Diane Simon, Chair, Ohio Trauma Committee
Robert Wagoner, Interim Executive Director, Ohio Trauma Committee Liaison

DATE: March 26, 2020

SUBJECT: American College of Surgeons (ACS) Accreditation and Verification Programs Grant One Year Extensions

Part 1: From the American College of Surgeons

The American College of Surgeons has been closely monitoring the progression of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the work of our front-line providers and systems of care. We are especially connected with hospitals that have made the commitment to Quality by participating in one or more of the ACS verification/accreditation programs. During this difficult time, we are continuously reviewing what we can do to help you.

The College is granting an extension of one year for hospitals currently accredited and verified. This additional year will extend the standard three-year verification to a four-year verification, for sites in good standing, in any of the ACS programs:

- Commission on Cancer (CoC)
- Children's Surgery Verification (CSV)
- Metabolic and Bariatric Surgical Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP)
- National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancer (NAPBC)
- National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC)
- Trauma Verification (Trauma VRC)

We know hospitals are diverting resources, limiting visitors, and placing mandatory travel bans on their staff. This one-year extension will alleviate the time and effort usually required in the preparation for an onsite review. We anticipate resuming site visits when it seems appropriate.

From all of us at ACS, thank you for all you are doing for your patients, providers, families and communities. We appreciate your commitment to our quality programs. If you have any specific questions on how this will affect your hospital, please review the below details and contact information for your program.

For centers participating in our Trauma Verification program, this means all onsite visits scheduled from March through the remainder of 2020 will be postponed by as long as one year. We will also work with programs pursuing initial verification to schedule site visits beginning early next year. Centers pending focused visits, (either onsite or by mail,) will be contacted by ACS staff for next steps. Trauma Verification staff will contact you once this crisis has subsided to schedule your site visit.

In addition, all programs due for a site visit in 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be pushed back to allow adequate time to fully recover from this crisis and return to regular program operations.

The verification status of all programs will be maintained during this time. We understand normal trauma program operations might be disrupted at this time. Where standards cannot be met due to these disruptions, we will maintain some flexibility in the application of the standard(s).

Our goal is to support you during this challenging time and eliminate any burden that maintaining verification might pose on you; including site visits. We appreciate your commitment to our Trauma Verification program and to your patients and wish you well during this difficult time. If you have any questions, please contact Trauma Verification staff at COTVRC@facs.org.

Thank you

Your Trauma Verification Staff

Part 2: From the Ohio Trauma Committee

Due to these unforeseeable events caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ohio Trauma Committee, in conjunction with the Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services Board, recognizes the American College of Surgeon's extension. For Ohio, this also means that provisional facilities will remain provisional and at their current level until such time as their final visit can be arranged and completed. Provisional centers will not be penalized if they fail to complete the process outlined in the Ohio Revised Code within the 18 month designated time period.

We appreciate your patience these efforts to help improve and strengthen the trauma care system in Ohio.

Thank you

The Ohio Trauma Committee

cc: Trauma Committee