

**APPROVED**  
**05.05.25**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Trauma Administrators Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2025

7:30 AM-8:30 AM

Zoom

[Meeting Recording](#)

[Meeting Attachments](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Dr. Patrice Walker Dr. Regina Medeiros Cindy Hoggard Sheila Bennett Tifani Kinard Rana Roberts April Dukes Amy Davis Ross Kemp Judean Guinn Jane Echols Shelly Harrell Ralph Castillo Walter Wiley Becky Weidler Jane Gray Dee Burkett Bill Tustin Randy Smith Callie Andrews Kim Basso Karim Godamunne Alicia Allen Tracy Gynther	<b>Committee Chair</b> , Atrium Health Navicent Medical Center, CMO Georgia Trauma Commission, Vice-Chair, Wellstar Health System, Executive Director Trauma & Burn Services Advent Health Redmond, Director ER/Trauma Atrium Health Floyd, SVP/Chief of Patient Services Atrium Health Polk Medical Center, VP of Rural Health Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Director, Trauma, Transport, and Transfer Center Crisp Regional Hospital, CNO, VP PCS Effingham Health System, Exec Director of Nursing Fairview Park Hospital, COO Hamilton Medical Center, VP/CNO JMS Burn Center at Doctors Hospital, VP Burn Services Memorial Health University Medical Center, VP Trauma Morgan Medical Center, Chief Executive Officer Northeast Georgia Healthcare System, Executive Director of Emergency, Trauma, Observation, and EMS Northside Hospital Gwinnett, Director of Patient Care Operations Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, COO Piedmont Athens Regional, Executive Director, Patient Services Piedmont Columbus Regional, COO SGMC Health, Senior Vice President/COO Wellstar Kennestone, COO Wellstar MCG CHOG, Director of Nursing - Women's and Children's Wellstar North Fulton Hospital, Chief Medical Officer Wellstar Paulding, Director of Nursing Wellstar West Georgia, CNO
APPOINTED DESIGNEES	REPRESENTING
Christopher Ruiz Mary Radford Stephen Shirlock Michael Gallagher	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, VP of Trauma Services Emanuel Medical Center, CNO John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Director of Nursing, Critical Care Services & Respiratory Care Piedmont Walton, Emergency Services Director

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	STAFF AND OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT
Dr. Regina Medeiros, Vice-Chair	Elizabeth V. Atkins, GTC, Executive Director Katie Vaughan, GTC, Finance Operations Officer Patricia Ayoung-Chee, GQIP, Data Analytics Whitney Williamson, Memorial Health University Medical Center, Director Jamie Van Ness, Wellstar Kennestone, Director of Trauma Services



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## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM, with twenty-five committee members and three committee member designees present. Dr. Walker thanked everyone for joining today's call and proceeded to the first item of discussion: the approval of the October meeting minutes.

## **Approval of October 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Walker asked for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes.

**MOTION GTCNC TRAUMA ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE 2025-02-01:**  
**Motion to approve October 28, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted.**

**MOTION BY:** Ralph Castillo

**SECOND BY:** Chris Ruiz

**VOTING:** All members are in favor of the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with no objections nor abstentions

## **Georgia Trauma Commission Updates**

### ***Presented by Elizabeth Atkins***

Liz provided the following updates:

- Legislative Session
  - The state is conducting an Insurance Vendor RFP for Georgia Medicaid
  - Prior vendors, Peachstate and Amerigroup, are not part of the RFP
  - There will be a new vendor transition in 2026
- Graduate Medical Education (GME) is getting increased funding over the next 5 years. There will be a specific increase in residency slots per year. The focus on residency slots in primary care or rural-focused programs
- A brief overview of the AFY 25 and FY 2026 budgets and associated hearings
  - AFY 2025 passed the house already and is pending the Senate
  - FY 2026, the approval process is moving ahead earlier than in previous years. Hearings are already underway.
  - There are several unknowns and concerns related to federally funded programs
- The Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) will hold its annual Lobby Day in Washington, DC, on April 2, 2025. The day is preceded by the TCAA Advocacy Institute. More information can be found at: <https://www.traumacenters.org/page/February2024#2024LOBBY>
- The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) held its annual Day at the Capitol, with a focus on tort reform.
- On Feb 26, The Georgia Trauma Foundation will host Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol. Registration has closed, but more information can be found at <https://georgiatraumafoundation.org/trauma-awareness-day/>

## **FY 26 Trauma Center Performance-Based Payment Program Revision Workgroup Update**

### ***Presented by Elizabeth Atkins***

Liz provided an overview of upcoming Performance-Based Pay (PBP) updates (**ATTACHMENT A**):

- Reduced risk for meeting attendance by implementing tiers
- Eliminated some "gray book" criteria given Level Is and IIs are now ACS verified (pending for Level IIIs)



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- Introduction of Outcome measures – VTE and Hip fracture repair
- Aligns with ACS TQIP best practices
- This is work Trauma Centers are already focused on for ACS verification preparation
- The clinical outcomes metrics will have zero dollars at risk for at least the first year
- Thresholds for performance will be determined by our GA Trauma Center data

### **Trauma Center Finance KPI Worksheet Summary**

#### ***Presented by Elizabeth Atkins***

Liz provided the following updates:

- A huge thanks to the 16 centers that submitted their completed worksheets
- The genesis of this project was last year's \$61M Trauma System Stabilization Plan. We received an inquiry about trauma activation response revenues. Recognizing that trauma activation response claims and reimbursement can be nebulous, we sought to understand more about how many centers are coding for activation response fees and what challenges exist in doing so.
  - OCGA 31.11.102 reflects that the Trauma Trust must be a "payor of last resort."
- From our preliminary review of the completed worksheets, most OFI exists in the FL 14, Type 5
  - Specifically, GA Medicaid does not recognize FL 14 Type 5. This is due to a pending software upgrade for GA Medicaid, which has other known inconsistencies with the NUBC that cannot be fixed until the migration to the new software.
  - The Insurance Commissioner spoke at the Capitol regarding the software upgrade.
- Next Steps:
  - We want to look at the claims side to determine a rough estimate (numerator/denominator fashion) of our success in getting reimbursed for activation charges, where successful reimbursement equals the percentage of times the claim is paid. We are not looking at the fees charged but rather at a global overview of its success.

### **Level I and Level II Readiness Cost Survey Workgroup Update**

#### ***Presented by Dr. Regina Medeiros***

Dr. Medeiros provided an overview of the upcoming Level I and Level II Readiness Cost Survey (**ATTACHMENT B**):

- This will be the Commission's 5th Trauma Readiness Cost Survey
- The most recent one, the Level III/Level IV Readiness Costs Survey, is the only published work that we are aware of on Level III and IV Readiness Costs
- The key for this iteration of the survey is twofold:
  - Quantifying the costs associated with transitioning from the Orange book to the Gray book
  - Quantifying the costs associated with being an ACS-verified center now that all level Is and IIs are required to be verified.
- The readiness cost aggregate data will be available to the administrator's group and presented and submitted for publication.

### **Summary of Meeting and Action Items**

#### ***Presented by Dr. Patrice Walker***

- Elizabeth Atkins presented the Georgia Trauma Commission updates, including legislative session progress and upcoming events.
- The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the performance-based pay criteria (**ATTACHMENT A**), including a tiered approach to meeting attendance and introducing outcome-based measures focused on



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VTE prophylaxis and geriatric fracture repair. The GTC will be soliciting feedback from trauma centers on the updated criteria through an open comment period.

- Elizabeth Atkins provided an update on the Trauma Center KPI Worksheet and next steps.
- The Committee reviewed the upcoming Level I and Level II trauma readiness cost survey (**ATTACHMENT B**), an FY 2026 contract requirement that will be due September 30, 2025.
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The next committee meeting is scheduled via Zoom on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Elizabeth Atkins*