

APPROVED
08.13.26

**Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) &
Trauma Medical Directors (TMD) Committee**

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026

4:00 PM-4:30 PM

Zoom

[Meeting Attachments](#)

GQIP/TMD COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE	
MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Patricia Ayoung-Chee	GQIP, Director of Quality Analytics and Research
Matthew Vassy	TMD Committee Chair, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, TMD
Gina Solomon	GQIP, Director
Sarah Parker	GQIP, PI Coordinator
Hilary Jessup	GQIP, Research Fellow
J Kelly Mayfield	AdventHealth Redmond, TMD
Katie Hasty	Atrium Health Floyd, Injury Prevention
Clarence McKemie	Atrium Health Floyd, TMD
Crystal Wynn	Atrium Health Floyd, PI coordinator
Dawn Truett	Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center, TPM
Anna Claire Cesario	Atrium Health Navicent, TPM
Benjie Christie	Atrium Health Navicent, TMD
Maria Francisca Johnson	Atrium Health Navicent, PI coordinator
Hunter Logue	Atrium Health Navicent, PI coordinator
David Carney	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, TMD
Susanne Edwards	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, PI coordinator
Karen Hill	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, TPM
Kellie Rowker	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, TPM
Justin Sobrino	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, TMD
David	Colquitt Regional Medical Center, TMD
Ashley Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital, TPM
Alicia Register	Crisp Regional Hospital, TMD
Laura Lunsford	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, TPM
Courtney Pettiford	Doctors Hospital of Augusta, TMD
Olalekan Akinyokunbo	Emanuel Medical Center, TMD
Brooke Marsh	Emanuel Medical Center, TPM
Gail Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center, PI coordinator
Laura Johnson	Emory @ Grady, BMD
Lynn Grant	Fairview Park Hospital, TPM
John Polhill	Fairview Park Hospital, TMD
Elizabeth Benjamin	Grady, TMD
Samantha Buchanan	Grady, PI coordinator
Rebecca Gaskins	Grady, TPM
Emily Page	Grady, PI coordinator
Kelli Scott	Grady, Burn Program Director
Alana Valadez	Grady, PI coordinator
Pamela Vanderberg	Grady, TPM
Kim Brown	Hamilton Medical Center, TPM
William Hardeman	Hamilton Medical Center, TMD
Tommy Langenfeld	HCA Memorial Health University Savannah, TPM
Whitney Williamson	HCA Memorial Health University Savannah, TPM
Mary Beth Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, PI coordinator
Cianna Pender	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TMD

Kelli Vaughn	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, TPM
Tammie Ruseell	Liberty Regional, TPM
Christie Mathis	Morgan Medical Center, TPM
Sid Nagrani	Morgan Medical Center, TMD
Jessica Mantooth	Northeast Georgia Medical Center, TPM
Matthew Vassy	Northeast Georgia Medical Center, TMD
Nadirah Burgess	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, TPM
Abby Darroux	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, PI coordinator
Romeo Massoud	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, TMD
Rayma Stephens	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, PI coordinator
Rayma Stephens	Northside Hospital Gwinnett, PI coordinator
Lemuel Dent	Phoebe Putney Memorial, TMD
Heather Morgan	Piedmont Athens Regional, TPM
Michael Shotwell	Piedmont Athens Regional, TMD
Brett Buehner	Piedmont Augusta Hospital, TPM
Jonathan Horsager	Piedmont Augusta Hospital, PI coordinator
Karen Barrett	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center, TPM
Jenny Huang	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center, TMD
Caitlin Dejesus-Rodrigo	Piedmont Columbus, PI coordinator
Kelly Gasser	Piedmont Columbus, PI coordinator
Mary Jameson	Piedmont Columbus, TPM
Jay Connelly	Piedmont Henry, TPM
Arina Ghaffari	Piedmont Henry, TMD
Justin Keeton	Piedmont Henry, TMD
Jason Radford	Piedmont Henry, PI coordinator
Mark Benak	Piedmont Walton Hospital, TMD
Garrett Polston	Piedmont Walton Hospital, TPM
Lisa Thomas	Piedmont Walton Hospital, PI coordinator
James Davis	SGMC Health, TMD
Desiree Lacy	SGMC Health, PI coordinator
Kailey Paulson	SGMC Health, TPM
Lori Adams	Wellstar Cobb, TPM
Shelby Lemon	Wellstar Cobb, TPM
Barry Renz	Wellstar Cobb, TMD
Austin Thomas	Wellstar Cobb, PI coordinator
Pedro Teixeira	Wellstar Health System, TMD
Keren Aviva Bashan-Gilzenrat	Wellstar Kennestone, TMD
Megan Dawson	Wellstar Kennestone, TPM
Jamie Van Ness	Wellstar Kennestone, TPM
Ashley Faircloth	Wellstar MCG , TPM
Elizabeth Fox	Wellstar MCG , TMD
Robyn Hatley	Wellstar MCG CHOG, TMD
Elizabeth Folse	Wellstar North Fulton, TPM
Jacob Holloway	Wellstar North Fulton, TMD
Sameer Mishra	Wellstar Paulding, TMD
Heather Loftus	Wellstar Spalding, TPM
Ezaldeen Numur	Wellstar Spalding, TMD
Rachel Hand	Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center, TPM
Ashley Orr	Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center, TMD

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	STAFF AND OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT
N/A	Elizabeth Atkins, GTC, Executive Director Gabriela Saye, GTC Business Operations Manager Gina Solomon, GTC, GQIP Director Crystal Shelnett, GTC, Regional Trauma System Development Manager



GEORGIA
QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM

Meeting 1 of 2

Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP)

Virtual Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM, with ninety GQIP members present. Dr. Patricia Ayong-Chee welcomed attendees and asked Elizabeth Atkins to provide an update from the Georgia Trauma Commission.

GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION UPDATES

Presented by Elizabeth Atkins

Elizabeth Atkins announced that the regularly scheduled quarterly commission meeting will be held on Thursday in Madison, Georgia, with the recording available for interested participants. The trauma systems continue to receive increased recognition at the federal level as critical healthcare preparedness infrastructure, particularly regarding workforce sustainability, military-civilian integration, and disaster readiness initiatives. She further noted that advocacy efforts by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA), Society of Trauma Nurses (STN), and the American Trauma Society (ATS) remain focused on securing long-term trauma system funding and strengthening coordinated national trauma preparedness efforts.

Elizabeth Atkins also provided updates regarding pre-hospital blood programs, noting continued expansion nationwide and within Georgia. Approximately \$250,000 in EMS committee funding has been allocated to support startup programs across the state. Discussions are ongoing regarding the development of a national pre-hospital blood registry, with Georgia expressing interest in becoming an early participant.

Additional comments addressed concerns surrounding current EMS reimbursement models, registry vendor transitions, and evolving trauma data-sharing capabilities.

Elizabeth concluded by sharing a collaborative conference model beginning in 2027 involving STN, TCAA, and the ATS, intended to consolidate educational and advocacy efforts into a unified national conference structure.

GQIP MEETINGS UPDATE

Presented by Dr. Patricia Ayong-Chee

Dr. Ayong-Chee presented updates regarding collaborative reporting and quality initiatives. A new collaborative report will be presented during the August meeting at Jekyll Island. Registration remains open for the OPTIMAL Course, taking place the same week as the GQIP Summer meeting. The course is primarily intended for Level I-III trauma centers seeking guidance on trauma verification and verification standards.

Program managers were reminded of pending performance matrix submissions and informed that ongoing geriatric trauma gap analyses are identifying meaningful trends in compliance with the Committee on Trauma geriatric care guidelines. Preliminary findings will be presented at the summer meeting. Gina Solomon advised that the Spring performance matrix will be sent to the facilities by the end of the month.

Dr. Ayong-Chee also announced plans for a joint 2027 TQIP and NSQIP collaborative meeting to promote coordination between trauma and non-trauma surgical quality programs throughout Georgia.

ARBORMETRIX UPDATES

Presented by Dr. Patricia Ayoung-Chee

There are no major changes to the platform, and we plan to continue using ArborMetrix for the foreseeable future. Ongoing efforts include developing new filters within the registry software to improve analysis of TQIP summary reports, particularly for blunt multisystem injury and shock cohorts. These updates are intended to make drill-down analysis and deep-dive reviews easier and more efficient. The team is also working to improve dashboard usability by creating more user-friendly, one-page outcome reports and enlarging key graphs displayed at the top of the ArborMetrix dashboard. Future enhancements may also allow users to access report cards directly from the dashboard, rather than relying solely on emailed reports.

In addition, the collaborative is exploring ways better to align NSQIP and TQIP initiatives across the state. Discussions with Dr. Sharma focused on improving geriatric care for both trauma and non-trauma patients in response to CMS age-friendly care initiatives and anticipated financial penalties in the coming years. One proposed strategy is implementing geriatric-focused case reviews to evaluate current practices, identify care gaps, and support more targeted improvement efforts. Overall, the discussion emphasized the importance of capturing data through deep-dive reviews in a way that is easy to report, interpret, and translate into actionable improvements.

GERIATRIC CASE REVIEW TEMPLATE

Presented by Dr. Patricia Ayoung-Chee

In addition, the collaborative is exploring ways better to align NSQIP and TQIP initiatives across the state. Discussions with Dr. Sharma focused on improving geriatric care for both trauma and non-trauma patients in response to CMS age-friendly care initiatives and anticipated financial penalties in the coming years. One proposed strategy is implementing geriatric-focused case reviews to evaluate current practices, identify care gaps, and support more targeted improvement efforts.

GQIP RESEARCH SCHOLAR UPDATE

Presented by Dr. Patricia Ayoung-Chee

Two GQIP Scholars have been selected for the current year, with future recruitment efforts planned for residency programs across the state.

The next GQIP meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21st, in person, at the Jekyll Island Club Resort. Registration is required.

The GQIP Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

The meeting transitioned to the Trauma Medical Directors Committee meeting; minutes start on page 5.



GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

Meeting 2 of 2

Trauma Medical Directors (TMD) Committee

Virtual Meeting

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM, with thirty-one TMD committee members present. Dr. Matthew Vassy welcomed members and advised that the meeting would be brief.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Vassy asked for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.

MOTION GTCNC TMD COMMITTEE 2026-05-01:

Motion to approve the February 19, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION BY: David Carney

SECOND BY: Robyn Hatley

VOTING: All members are in favor of the motion.

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

GCTE UPDATES

Presented by Lynn Grant

Lynn Grant provided updates on behalf of GCTE. She encouraged Trauma Medical Directors to participate in the upcoming OPTIMAL Course at Jekyll. The registry subcommittee continues to evaluate multiple trauma registry vendors. Lynn also noted that updated pediatric transfer documentation posters had been distributed to Level IV trauma centers and critical access emergency departments. Additional pediatric initiatives include ongoing revisions to the pediatric imaging toolkit by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The PI subcommittee continues development of geriatric trauma care initiatives.

RMOCC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Presented by Dr. Matthew Vassy

Dr. Vassy then provided an update regarding the formation of an interdisciplinary Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Centers (RMOCC) subcommittee composed of representatives from both the Trauma Medical Directors Committee and the Administrators Committee. The subcommittee has reviewed preliminary information regarding trauma system structures and funding models utilized in Alabama and Arkansas. Dr. Vassy reported that additional meetings will be scheduled to evaluate operational frameworks, budget considerations, and potential legislative strategies for preparedness infrastructure and RMOCC development in Georgia.

VICE-CHAIR NOMINATIONS

Presented by Dr. Matthew Vassy

The committee discussed establishing a formal leadership succession structure comprising a past chair, a current chair, and a vice chair to provide continuity going forward. Dr. Matthew Vassy reviewed the proposed process, which would begin with nominations and the election of a vice chair. Committee members were asked to submit nominations by June 1st, after which Dr. Vassy would contact nominees to confirm their interest and distribute a

SurveyMonkey ballot to the committee for voting. The goal is to have the vice chair elected by the summer in-person meeting. Dr. Vassy proposed that the first vice chair serve a one-year transition term before moving into the chair position, with future leadership transitions occurring on a two-year cycle thereafter. He also noted that the newly elected vice chair would likely lead the upcoming summer TMD meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Addendum: Due to the OPTIMAL Course, a virtual TMD Committee meeting will be scheduled before the August meetings. A meeting date will be sent out once confirmed.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Additional discussion included updates related to preparedness for upcoming FIFA events in Atlanta. Participants noted that there is currently limited clarity regarding operational planning and coordination. However, concerns were raised that traffic congestion and transportation access could pose greater challenges than hospital capacity itself during major events or mass casualty incidents. The conversation referenced prior lessons learned from major Atlanta infrastructure disruptions and the importance of planning for provider and patient movement during large-scale events.

The group also received an update on legislative efforts to establish a Stop the Bleed educational requirement in Georgia high schools. Although the initiative did not pass during the current legislative session due to timing constraints, participants noted that the proposal received strong support and may have a good chance of success next year. Appreciation was expressed to the teams involved for their advocacy and work on the initiative.

With no further questions or comments, the TMD Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

SUMMARY OF MEETING AND ACTION ITEMS

GQIP

- Elizabeth Atkins provided Georgia Trauma Commission updates.
- Dr. Ayoung-Chee provided updates on:
 - GQIP Meetings
 - ArboMetrix
 - Geriatric Case Review
 - GQIP Scholars
- Gina shared that the Spring performance matrices' anticipated distribution is expected by the end of the month.

TMD Committee

- Lynn Grant provided GCTE updates.
- Dr. Vassy provided an update on the RMOCC subcommittee progress.
- **Action Item:** Committee members were asked to submit nominations by June 1st, after which Dr. Vassy would contact nominees to confirm their interest and distribute a SurveyMonkey ballot to the committee for voting.

Events/Meetings

- The Georgia Trauma Commission quarterly meeting is taking place on Thursday, May 21st, in Madison, GA.
- Attendance at the OPTIMAL course on Wednesday, August 19th, in person, at Jekyll Island Club Resort was encouraged: [Registration Link](#).
- The next GQIP meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21st, in person, at the Jekyll Island Club Resort: [Registration Link](#).
 - **PBP Notice:** TPM, TMD, and Senior Executives are required to attend in person (Contracted Centers)
- Addendum: The next virtual TMD Committee meeting will be scheduled before the August meetings. A

meeting date will be shared once confirmed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gabriela Saye