



# Georgia Trauma Commission

GEORGIA TRAUMA CARE NETWORK COMMISSION

## Trauma Medical Directors Conference Call: 14 March 2011

### Attending:

Dr. Ashley: MCCG  
Dr. Culpepper: Taylor  
Dr. Hawk: Athens  
Dr. Hannay: Columbus  
Dr. Strom: Gainesville

Dr. Ochsner: Memorial  
Dr. Thompson: Hamilton  
Dr. Brock: Floyd  
Jim Pettyjohn: Trauma Commission

### Meeting Notes:

Dr. Ashley noted participation in the Trauma Medical Director's conference calls are part of the Trauma Centers' contract for Commission-directed funding and is one of the criteria in the Commission's Performance Based Payment program.

Discussion on frequency and format of meetings: General agreement to hold conference calls quarterly, brief meeting minutes/notes produced and agenda (legislative update, old and new business) developed ahead of time. However, next call will be in two months or May 2011. Conference Calls will be arranged by Dr. Ashley's office and staffed by Trauma Commission personnel.

Agreement reached to hold an annual face-to-face Trauma Medical Directors meeting in association with the ACS Georgia Committee on Trauma. It was suggested this annual meeting could coincide with the Georgia COT-sponsored "resident trauma research competition." Dr. Ashley will work with Dr. Chris Dente to arrange.

Discussion of ACS Trauma Quality Improvement Program: General agreement among attendees for Trauma Commission to move forward and investigate providing TQIP to Georgia designated trauma centers. Currently, Memorial (Savannah) and Grady (Atlanta) participate in TQIP. Cost of TQIP to be approximately \$9000 annually with no additional staff support required to participate.

"The fundamental goal of TQIP is to provide risk-adjusted benchmarking of designated/verified trauma centers to track outcomes and improve patient care. To accomplish this, the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) utilizes the infrastructure of the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB) to collect valid and reliable data, provide feedback to participating trauma centers, and identify institutional characteristics that are associated with improved outcomes.

TQIP supports the College's mission of promoting the highest standards of surgical care through the evaluation of surgical outcomes in clinical practice, and promises to improve the quality of trauma surgical care. The objective of TQIP is to build upon this existing infrastructure through enhancements in the following areas: *data collection, benchmarking, and identifying structures and processes of care.*" <http://www.facs.org/trauma/ntdb/tqip.html>

Dr. Ashley reported on the Commission's budget for FY 2011 (\$10.5M) or a 53% cut from projections and the projected FY 2012 budget (\$16.5M). Governor Deal has the Commission's budget directly tied to Super Speeder revenues. A brief discussion of revenue collection percentages and lag for those revenue collections occurred.



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Discussion on Sen. Goggins new trauma funding bill introduced in the Georgia Senate. This bill is very similar to past Senate Resolution that produced the proposed Constitutional Amendment 2, which failed during last November election. The difference between the two bills is there will be no new fees assessed as a result of the new constitutional amendment, rather \$10 will be taken from current vehicle tag fee and placed into the Georgia Trauma Trust Fund for trauma system funding. To move this forward will require another vote by Georgians to pass the Constitutional amendment, which could not occur until November 2012. There was discussion that this bill may sit in the legislature this year and not be passed out until the next session.