

## **NOTICE OF INTENT**

### **Department of Health Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board**

**(LAC 48:I, Chapter 197, Sections 197101-197107)**

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Health, Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board, has exercised the provisions of R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Administrative Procedure Act, and intends to promulgate LAC 48.I.197101-197107, rules and regulations for recognition of a trauma program.

Pursuant to Act 248 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Emergency Response Network and Louisiana Response Network Board were created within the Department of Health. The Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board is authorized by R.S. 40:2846(A) to adopt rules and regulations to carry into effect the provisions of R.S. 40:2841 et seq. Pursuant to R.S. 40:2841, the legislative purpose of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network is to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of the people of this state against unnecessary trauma and time-sensitive related deaths and incidents of morbidity due to trauma.

R.S. 40:2845(A)(1) requires the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board to establish and maintain a statewide trauma communication center for resource coordination of medical capabilities for participating trauma centers as defined by R.S. 40:2171 and emergency medical services. The Board is authorized to promulgate protocols for the transport of trauma and time-sensitive ill patients. The protocols so adopted consider trauma programs in addition to trauma centers. The rules provide for trauma program recognition, and are designated as Chapter 197, Trauma Program Recognition, LAC 48:I, Sections 197101-197107.

### **Title 48 PUBLIC HEALTH-GENERAL Part I. General Administration Subpart 15. Emergency Response Network**

#### **Chapter 197. Trauma Program Recognition §197101. Generally**

A. The goal of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board is to establish a trauma system that includes one verified trauma center in each region of the state. Trauma program recognition in excess of this goal will be determined utilizing a needs based assessment. The LERN Communication Center coordinates access to the trauma system by providing accurate and professional routing of patients experiencing time sensitive illness to the definitive care facility, which includes trauma programs recognized according to these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2846(A), R.S. 40:2845(A)(1) and R.S. 9:2798.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Emergency Response Network, LR:\_\_\_\_\_.

**§197103. Purpose**

A. LERN recognizes the opportunity to reduce the morbidity and mortality of trauma patients in Louisiana in areas without an existing Level I or Level II trauma center or an existing Level II or Level III trauma program through this process which recognizes the achievement of specific benchmarks in hospitals actively pursuing Levels II or III Trauma Center verification through the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

B. The purpose of this Chapter is to define the qualifications, procedure, and requirements for hospitals seeking Trauma Center verification by the ACS to be recognized by LERN as achieving the core components of a Trauma Program and thus qualified for recognition as a trauma program.

C. The criteria for trauma program recognition are drawn from *Resources For Optimal Care Of Injured Patient 2014* published by the ACS.

D. Trauma program recognition is distinct and different from the Trauma Center certification by the state. To be certified as a trauma center, a hospital must satisfy the requirements of La. R.S. 40:2172 and 2173.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Emergency Response Network, LR:\_\_\_\_\_.

**§197105. Qualifications For LERN Trauma Program Recognition**

A. The hospital must be located in a LERN region that does not have an existing ACS verified Level I or Level II trauma center.

B. A hospital providing care to trauma patients in a LERN region without an existing ACS verified Level I or Level II trauma center or without an existing Level II or Level III trauma program is eligible for trauma program recognition upon meeting the requirements of this rule.

C. If there is an existing LERN recognized Level II or Level III trauma program in the LERN region, the hospital must complete the most current version of the ACS Needs Based Assessment of Trauma Systems Tool (ACS NBATS). If the number of trauma centers allocated by the Tool is less than or equal to the number of existing trauma programs in the region, the hospital is not eligible for trauma program recognition.

D. A hospital must be in the process of working toward ACS verification to be eligible for trauma program recognition.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2846(A), R.S. 40:2845(A)(1) and R.S. 9:2798.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Emergency Response Network, LR:\_\_\_\_\_.

**§197107. Procedure for Trauma Program Recognition**

A. A hospital must complete the LERN approved form, “Application for Recognition of Trauma Program”.

B. The hospital CEO must complete and sign the LERN approved Trauma Program Checklist/Attestation for the applicable trauma program level.

1. By this attestation, the hospital CEO ensures 24/7/365 availability of the resources listed.

2. The attestation must be validated by a site visit by LERN staff.

3. Upon CEO attestation and/or site visit, if it is determined by the LERN Executive Committee in conjunction with the LERN Trauma Medical Director, that the required benchmarks are not in place the hospital will not be eligible for trauma program verification.

C. After satisfying the requirements of A. and B. above, the hospital will be recognized as a trauma program and such recognition will be added to the LERN Resource Management screen for the purpose of routing trauma patients.

D. To maintain trauma program recognition, the hospital must schedule an ACS verification or consultation site visit for the desired trauma level within 12 months of LERN acceptance of the trauma program checklist/attestation.

1. If an ACS verification or consultation site visit is not scheduled within 12 months of the signed checklist/attestation, the “Trauma Program” indicator on LERN Resource Management Screen will be removed.

E. After a consultation visit for the desired trauma level, the hospital has 1 year to achieve verification by the ACS or the trauma program indicator will be removed on the LERN Resource Management Screen.

1. If the hospital fails the ACS verification visit and a focused review visit, the hospital will lose trauma program status. The trauma program indicator will be removed on the LERN Resource Management Screen.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2846(A), R.S. 40:2845(A)(1) and R.S. 9:2798.5.

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#### **Family Impact Statement**

1. What effect will these rules have on the stability of the family? The proposed rules will not affect the stability of the family.
2. What effect will this have on the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children? The proposed rules will not affect the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children.
3. What effect will this have on the functioning of the family? These rules will not affect the functioning of the family.
4. What effect will this have on family earnings and family budget? These rules will not affect the family earnings or family budget.
5. What effect will this have on the behavior and personal responsibility of children? These rules will not affect the behavior or personal responsibility of children.
6. Is the family or local government able to perform the function as contained in this proposed Rule? No, the proposed rules will have no impact.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

#### **Small Business Statement**

The impact of the proposed Rules on small business has been considered and it is estimated that the proposed action is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on small business as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The agency, consistent with health, safety, environmental and economic welfare factors has considered and, where possible, utilized regulatory methods in the drafting of the proposed Rules that will accomplish the objectives of applicable statutes while minimizing the adverse impact of the proposed Rules on small business.

#### **Provider Impact Statement**

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of these proposed Rules have been considered. It is anticipated that these proposed Rules will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, and no increase on direct or indirect cost. The proposed Rule will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

#### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule until 4:30 p.m., Monday, September 12, 2016 to Paige Hargrove, Louisiana Emergency Response Network, 14141 Airline Hwy., Suite B, Building 1, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, or via email to [paige.hargrove@la.gov](mailto:paige.hargrove@la.gov).

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director