

Research:

Prereview Questionnaire

1. Describe the current procedures and processes investigators must follow to request access to the trauma system registry.

Individual EMS and hospital providers are required to submit an account packet in order to: submit data to the state EMS/Trauma Registry, access their own data, and obtain a variety of system-generated reports. A public use data file is available on request. A research data file also is available on request; however, the use of these data this must be approved by the DSHS Institutional Review Board. Investigators also can submit a data request to DSHS staff who will prepare the requested reports.

2. What are the mechanisms used to ensure patient confidentiality when regional trauma registry data are used by investigators?

Only de-identified data are released to investigators. The IRB is used to ensure the protection of the people in the registry.

3. Provide examples of where research was conducted for the purpose of providing evidence that the processes of care and outcome of injured patients in the system's region are within acceptable standards.

The agency, DSHS, has not conducted these types of studies; however, this type of research may occur at the local and regional level within the Trauma Service Areas. Periodically Registry research staff has been called on to prepare data on EMS response times across trauma service areas.

4. How has research been used to modify policy or practice within the system?

Research has been conducted to support the need for the establishment of an Office of Acquired Brain Injury within the Health and Human Services Commission. Research also supported the passage of more stringent child passenger safety laws. Research done in collaboration with the Houston-Galveston Area Council was used to revise the areas trauma system (i.e. in conjunction with analyses of Harris County hospital diversion data, area EMS procedures were devised to direct EMS responders to the most appropriate hospital facility based on availability).

5. What resources (for example, personnel and fiscal) are available to the lead agency to assist in conducting system research?

The Injury and EMS/Trauma Registry Group has two (2) epidemiologists and one (1) research specialist). These staff persons also manage the Registry database which collects approximately 2 million records per year. There are additional epidemiologists

within the Environmental and Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology Unit available to assist with data analysis and research; however, these staff also has other non-injury related duties.

Documentation Required

Before site visit:

- ✓ No additional documentation required

On-site:

- ✓ Policies and procedures pertaining to data access for research purposes
- ✓ A bibliography of research publications published by investigators in the system

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✓ A list of data requests for the regional trauma registry for the past year

Ryan and Crystal will provide this.