



April 26, 2024

Dear EMS and Trauma Stakeholders,

This letter is to inform you that the Department of State Health Services is withdrawing the current Chapter 157 rule project that was first published in the Texas Register on January 19, 2024. DSHS will submit a new rule project on Chapter 157 soon.

This withdrawal and resubmission will allow DSHS to fully address the approximately 4,000 comments regarding the proposed rule.

DSHS has considered all the received comments and will make significant modifications to accommodate much of stakeholder feedback. When DSHS resubmits the rules project, the following changes will be included:

- Where the proposed rules exceeded American College of Surgeons (ACS) requirements, most provisions will be modified to a similar standard as ACS, with a couple of small exceptions.
- Where stakeholders noted that the provisions would create an undue burden on facilities, many provisions will be modified to be consistent with ACS criteria or removed.
- Related to the four categories of Level IV facilities, DSHS will modify the Level IV provisions to include just two categories: 100 patients or less and Over 100 patients. For the low volume facilities, there would be fewer requirements.
- Related to the effective date of the designation portion of the rules, DSHS will modify the proposal such that those provisions would be effective September 1, 2025.

Ultimately, there is a need to update the content and processes in rule with the advances, evidence-based practices, and system processes that have developed since the current rules were adopted in 2004. There also is a need to align with ACS standards and to include amendments that implement legislation passed since the rules were last adopted.

This effort is the culmination of years of work, interrupted by the pandemic, to bring the trauma rules up to the most current standards. Our staff spent hundreds of hours with individual stakeholders and stakeholder groups, including the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. We appreciate your time invested in these efforts. DSHS will continue to collaborate with stakeholders and GETAC to successfully bring trauma services requirements up to current national standards.

Letter to EMS and Trauma Stakeholders  
April 26, 2024

DSHS will provide updates through GETAC on the proposed rule timeline. Information will be sent through the email subscription system. If you would like to receive updates, please visit the [DSHS EMS and Trauma Systems](#) website and click on the “Sign Up for Updates” link at the bottom of the page. Important dates and information will be posted on the above EMS and Trauma Systems website.

Thank you for your support and interest.

Sincerely,

*Jorie Klein*

Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN  
Director, EMS / Trauma Systems Section  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
1100 W. 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78714