New York State adopted the American College of Surgeon’s Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) standards and verification process for the State’s trauma system in 2013. The ACS-COT standards allow for four levels of trauma center. Level 3 and 4 trauma centers are community hospitals which dedicate their resources to receiving and stabilizing severely injured patients and then transfer those patients to level 1 or 2 centers. Steps in the New York State process include announcing an intention in becoming a trauma center, seeking a consultative visit from ACS-CT, and scheduling a verification visit from ACS-COT. In addition there are other requirements such as the appointment of a trauma medical director and the submission of trauma data to both the New York State Trauma Registry and the National Trauma Data Bank. Once a hospital receives verification from the ACS-COT, it is required to undergo a verification visit every 3 years.

To suggest a topic, please email wellness@rochesterregional.org. To read the full article, click the linked title or contact the Werner Medical Library. Additional links to material from the NYS Department of Health, ACS-COT and other sources may be found in Library News.


- Evans T, et al. (2014). Magnet hospitals are a magnet for higher survival rates at adult trauma centers. The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, 77(1), 89-94.