

**PATIENT DEFINITION & MINIMUM DATA ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE
NORTH CAROLINA TRAUMA REGISTRY (NCTR)
April 2004**

As of April 2004, sixteen North Carolina hospitals utilize the National Trauma Registry of the American College of Surgeons (NTRACS™). This number includes all eleven of the state's designated trauma centers. This data collection includes approximately 200 data points, although additional datapoints often are added temporarily for a specific research study and then removed upon completion of the study. The data is downloaded to the state quarterly. Each participating hospital also is encouraged to send data to the National Trauma Registry Databank (NTDB™) in Chicago on an annual basis.

Participation in the NCTR is mandatory for all North Carolina trauma centers. Hospitals that are not designated as trauma centers are encouraged to participate in the NCTR. However, they have two options for participation:

1. Use NTRACS™ with its 200 datapoints and quarterly submission, or
2. Use an automated data transfer process to submit a smaller number of datapoints (33) on a daily basis. This smaller dataset contains information that can be pulled from existing hospital information systems - no data entry is required.

Definition

To remain a designated trauma center or to successfully pursue trauma center designation (Level I, II or III) in North Carolina, all of the following patients must be entered into a hospital's trauma registry:

Patients who have an ICD9 diagnosis code in 800-959.9 and who are either:

- admitted to the hospital for greater than 23:59 hours (24 hours or more) from the scene, an ED, or hospital, or
- die in the ED or hospital, or
- are DOA, or
- are transferred from ED to the OR, ICU/Burn Unit, or
- who are transferred to another hospital.

Minimum Data Entry Requirements

1. Data verification: No requirement at this time for verification of records against paper. This requirement will be implemented in the future.
2. Records on 100% of patients must be entered into the NTRACS data system within 90 days of death or discharge from the hospital. The Reimbursed Charges data point should be completed at 6 months from the date of death or discharge from the hospital.
3. Data submitted to the Central Data Collection Agency (CDCA) must include valid entries in all required fields marked for submission to the CDCA in the latest version of the NCTR Data Dictionary.
4. In years that a hospital has a site visit, records must be entered into the NTRACS data system to meet the requirements listed in the current site visit chart selection document which can be accessed through the NCOEMS website (<http://www.ncems.org>).