



ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER



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Alaska Native Medical Center Receives Verification from the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma

Anchorage – The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Trauma Center has been verified as a Level II trauma center by the Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This achievement recognizes the ANMC Trauma Center's dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients.

The ACS established the COT's Verification and Certification Program for Hospitals in 1987. The program promotes the development of trauma centers in which participants provide not only the hospital resources necessary for trauma care, but also the entire spectrum of care to address the needs of all injured patients. This spectrum encompasses the pre-hospital phase through the rehabilitation process.

Verified trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance, as outlined by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma in its current Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient manual.

The ACS Committee on Trauma's verification program does not designate trauma centers. Rather, the program provides a confirmation that a trauma center has

demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for all injured patients. The actual establishment and the designation of trauma centers is the function of local, regional, or state health care systems agencies, such as the local emergency medical services (EMS) authority.

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There are four separate categories of verification in the COT's program. Each category has specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of verification. Each hospital has an on-site review by a team of experienced trauma surgeons, who use the current Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient manual as a guideline in conducting the survey.

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational association of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical education and practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College has 59,000 members and it is the largest association of surgeons in the world. Longstanding achievements have placed the College in the forefront of American surgery and have made it an important advocate for all surgical patients.

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