

Arizona Department of Health Services

**Bureau of Emergency Medical
Services & Trauma System**



**Willcox Arizona
Level IV Trauma Center**

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PI Objective 4 – Increase Trauma Billing Efficiency

- Thanks to Rogelio Martinez for the Following information and ASTR data:
(see handouts)
- Trauma team activations are vital to ensure a coordinated and capable response to injured patients presenting to a trauma center's emergency department.
- Trauma care is not charity care
- Risk for Serious injuries &/or have wounds brought on by either and external force or an energy transfer
- Life-altering, life-threatening or ultimately fatal

PI Objective 4 – Increase Trauma Billing Efficiency

- **Arizona Baseline Trauma Billing Efficiency Score:**
 - Level I Trauma Centers – 86%
- Level IV Trauma Centers – 39%

Trauma Activation fees

- Trauma activation fees are to assist your facility in paying for your trauma program costs.
- **Payment is deserved and should be pursued vigorously**

In calculating your fees, include the following:

- Administrative cost
- Trauma Medical Director
- Trauma Coordinator
- Trauma Team activation salaries
- Physician Trauma Coverage agreements
- committee

Developing a Trauma Activation Fee 068X

- The facility must be an ACS verified or State Designated trauma center to charge an activation fee
- Utilize for patients for whom a trauma activation occurred.
 - Notification of key hospital personnel in response to triage information from pre-hospital care-givers in advance of the patient's arrival.

- Why should we use a trauma activation fee?
- Can we use the 68X code if a patient is driven to the hospital by family member or walked into the trauma center?
- Should the trauma activation fee levels differ based on whether the patient was admitted or not?
- Should we chart the reasons for trauma team activation?
- What should we do if insurers refuse to pay the trauma surcharge?

- NFTC Frequently asked questions
- <http://www.health.state.mn.us/traumasystem/hospresources/billingcode/nftcfaq.pdf>

Stakeholders

- State of Arizona DHS Team
- Trauma Managers
- Hospital Patient accounting staff
- ED providers and Nurses

Performance Improvement:

ongoing assessment with a structured review of process and discussions of strategies to monitor trauma patient billing.

Costs should be contained in an ongoing cycle of fiscal PI

- ❖ Improve the data found in Trauma Billing Efficiency Score for Level IV Trauma Centers
 - Is this data complete
 - Can data be broke down further to determine where improvement needs to be focused.
 - What is the best tool to use for measurement?
 - How can we be consistent in all Level IV facilities with monitoring for trauma activation fee reporting

