

TRAUMA CENTER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The National Voice For Trauma Centers

Volume IX, Issue V

Winter 2010

Preferred Partner



In this issue:

- TCAA Engages in Healthcare Reform for Trauma Centers
- Fellows Produce "How To" Guide to Trauma Billing
- Manuscript submitted to JTrauma
- Member Poll
- TCAA Collaborates with MN
- Education Calendar

New Members



TCAA Goes to Washington DC

For a Legislative Advocacy DAY

TCAA's Board of Directors and Lobbyist, Lisa Tofil, Partner at Holland & Knight in Washington, DC, have scheduled a legislative advocacy day for next month, on February 25. TCAA members will be meeting with key Members of Congress to discuss securing funding for trauma centers pending authorization included in the healthcare reform legislation. The TCAA Board, TCAA Advocacy & Government Relations Committees and trauma center members have all been invited to attend.

As you might already know, TCAA's 2009 was very successful and resulted in 94 Congressional visits. The 2009 Lobby Day began with a well attended press conference with Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and TCAA leaders to announce the introduction of the National Trauma Center Stabilization Act (H.R. 936 & S. 733). Key portions of this legislation have been included in the House and Senate health care reform legislation and we remain hopeful that the final health reform legislation will include these critical trauma provisions.



Majority Leader [Harry Reid](#), D-Ne. , center, gestures during a news conference on health care, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington. With Reid from left are Sen. [Patty Murray](#), D-Wash. , [Max Baucus](#), D-Mont. , Sen. [Charles Schumer](#), D-N.Y. , and Sen. [Christopher Dodd](#), D-Conn.

In preparation for TCAA's Lobby Day on Capitol Hill, Holland & Knight will schedule your meetings, provide a complete briefing prior to visits, as well as provide you with talking points and leave-behind packets for legislative staff and Congressional leaders. Additionally, members of the Holland & Knight TCAA legislative team will join you in your Congressional meetings and help you navigate through the House and Senate office buildings.

The ability of the trauma center community to secure federal funding for trauma centers depends upon all of us to directly advocate with Members of Congress and their staff about the importance of this is to our trauma centers and the patients we serve. Particularly, we need to focus on advocating with Members of the House & Senate Appropriations Committees and Members who helped champion the trauma center provisions in the health care reform legislation. As such, we are hoping TCAA members from the following states, which have strong representation on the Appropriations Committees will be able to fully participate on TCAA Lobby Day.

Arizona	California	Colorado
Florida	Georgia	Michigan
New York	North Carolina	Ohio
Tennessee	Texas	Virginia
Washington		

Participation in TCAA Lobby Day is extremely important and a prudent investment of your time and resources to help secure federal funding for trauma centers. If you are unable to attend, TCAA will provide draft letters for you to send to your Members of Congress, available through the TCAA website (www.traumafoundation.org) for Members only using Soft-edge, a legislative advocacy tool.

UPDATE: TCAA Supported Federal Trauma Legislation

Following House action early last fall, the Senate passed its version of health reform legislation by a party line vote of 60 to 39 on December 24. This bill (H.R. 3590) includes the following TCAA-supported trauma center funding provisions:

- Reauthorizes the Trauma Care Center Grant Program for substantial uncompensated care, core mission services and emergency needs at \$100 million. (The House bill allows \$100 million in grants to go to core mission and emergency services only.)
- Authorizes an additional \$100 million for Trauma Service Availability Grants for new and flexible funding to tackle unique challenges impeding access within each state such as overcrowding, shortages of trauma centers and on-call pay. (This provision is unique to the Senate bill; the House bill does not include the Trauma Service Availability Grant program.)
- Authorizes \$12 million in regional pilot project grants to design, implement and evaluate a regionalized, accountable emergency care system to coordinate public health, safety and emergency services; facilitate access; ensure patients are directed to proper facility; track hospital resources in real time; and coordinate standardized data management.
Includes language excluding planned readmissions or transfers to another hospital from Medicare payment penalties for readmissions.

Senate and House negotiators had expected to finalize negotiations this month on a final compromise health reform bill that could pass both chambers and be sent to the President for his signature. However, with the January 19 election of Republican State Senator Scott Brown of Massachusetts to fill the seat of the late Senator Ted Kennedy (D), the Democrats lost their filibuster-proof majority, calling into question the fate of final health reform legislation.

As Congressional leaders debate how to proceed on health reform, TCAA continues to advocate for the maintenance of the trauma center funding provisions outlined above in final legislation. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

COMMITTEE CORNER

The TCAA is a member driven and Board directed non-profit trade association (501c6). The following is a brief summary of Committee activities which are closely supervised by TCAA Staff and Board. We wish we could recognize all Committee members in this summary, but for the sake of space we want to give them each a hearty "thank you" from the Board of Directors and TCAA staff for their contribution to the field of trauma care.

Advocacy Committee

Chair, Ron Anderson, MD, MACP, Vice Chair, Russ Molloy

This very active Committee has monthly calls to guide and direct all of the Federal legislative activities on behalf of the TCAA. Lobbyist, Lisa Tofil, and Holland & Knight staff initiates calls and update the committee on our efforts. This group also connects with key legislators through phone, in person, or meetings in Washington DC as needed to pursue the interests of our TCAA member trauma centers and systems. The group is comprised of Governmental Relations staff, Trauma Surgeons and Trauma Center CEO's.

Development Committee

Chair, Lois Blough, RN, MS. Vice-Chair, Julie Nash, RN, MS

Quarterly calls by this group are guiding the TCAA Finance Fellowship program, assisting in marketing plan for TCAA growth, reviewing the website changes and approving marketing materials. With their help, TCAA has grown from 180 to 240 members in the 5 years since it relocated to New Mexico. TCAA now represent nearly 40% of bona fide trauma centers in the US and 17 state oversight agencies.

Education Committee

Chair, Michele Ziglar, RN, MS, Vice -Chair, Claudia McCormick, RN, MS

The Education Committee has a broad array of responsibilities: developing topics and suggesting speakers for the annual conference and webinars, reviewing post-course evaluations to continuously improve educational offerings and suggest new topics. The Committee has also assisted in the development of a new course, available to trauma system members, called the Rural Trauma Director Course which was piloted in Wyoming with superlative evaluations. This course will be offered to Trauma System members.

Finance Committee

Chair, Jim Valenti, Vice-Chair Dan Gross

This subcommittee of the Board oversees and approves all monthly, quarterly and annual fiscal activities of the TCAA. They also closely monitor expenditures to assure that member monies are used in a fiscally responsible manner, The also review the annual external audit of TCAA financial dealings to assure that they comply with all Federal and State regulations related to our non-profit status.

Pediatrics Committee

Chair, Victor Garcia, MD, FACS, Vice-Chair, Richard Falcone, MD, FACS

This newest Committee is acknowledged to be the most enthusiastic and active of all groups. Their initial project was to review numerous Traumatic Brain Injury protocols and offer one that is standardized and evidence-based on the most available investigative data. This practice guideline will be made available to all TCAA members as a template that can be adapted to local resources and practices. TCAA Associate, Vivian Lane, RN, MS, has been provided as a resource for the research aspect of this project so that the sub-committee can make decisions as to commonly accepted standards and rationale for variances if appropriate. The Committee's next project is to conduct the same type of consensus process for Pediatric Field Triage and Interhospital Transport Criteria.

Reimbursement Committee

Chair, Samir Fakhry, MD, FACS

To date, this group has been considered by the Board of Directors as the most important to the viability and potential expansion of our nation's trauma centers and systems. Their focus is to identify and suggest projects for TCAA Fellows that are fiscal in nature and can be disseminated to all member organizations, develop projects such as the poster and abstract about trauma response charges recently published in December 2009 Journal of Trauma (p. 1352).

They designed a "trauma surgeon workload study" to identify the time, effort, skill and reimbursement for the initial resuscitation period of a full trauma team patient. This study has collected 20 surveys which have been reviewed in a blinded manner by a TCAA trauma surgeon billing and coding expert. The Committee has also endorsed the application to the National Uniform Billing Committee of the American Heart Association for a Disaster Response and Care code. To date, their work with TCAA staff has resulted in a new Universal Billing (UB) event type, DR as in Disaster Related. The next step is to follow with a billing code and standards for when the code is used and recommendations as to charging. This group has recently been provided with its own Community Bulletin Board so that they can communication with individuals or the entire group.

Systems Committee

Chair, Mary Beachley, RN, MS, Lisa Irwin, RN, MHA, TCAA Systems Advisor

The Trauma Systems members of the TCAA receive a very different yet wide array of services from the TCAA from those of hospital members. TCAA assists them in the development, management and skill development to guide a state, regional or Foundation as they move through various stages of maturation. This group was the first to have its own Community Bulletin Board within the secure portion of www.traumafoundation.org. System members have opportunities for additional services and education courses such as the new Rural Trauma Medical Director course and the Comprehensive System Performance Improvement consultative service which was piloted in the State of Minnesota in 2009. The Committee Chair, TCAA Staff and Advisors have decades of experience in trauma system development, as either a Trauma System Manager or Regional System Manager.

**TCAA Webinar
Education Calendar**

M & M/Peer Review

TUESDAY FEB. 23 2010

Michael McGonigal, MD, FACS
Vivian Lane, MS, RN

**Drop off/Drive By:
How to bill for Trauma Team Activations
without Pre-notification**

TUESDAY APRIL 20, 2010

Connie Potter, RN, MBA

**Physician Coverage: Models for the
Current & Upcoming Surgical Shortage**

TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2010

Samir Fakhry, MD, FACS

**Advocacy: Healthcare Reform and the
Impact on Trauma Centers**

TUESDAY SEPT. 14, 2010

Lisa Tofil, Esq

**Marketing Your Trauma Services;
Annual Trauma Program Report**

TUESDAY DEC. 7, 2010

Dan Gross, DNSc

**New offerings for
System Members**

**Rural Trauma Medical Director
Course**

**Performance Improvement Work-
shop**

**Performance Improvement Plan:
Written specifically to meet your
system's needs.**

For more information on educational events and for the Annual Conference Registration, please contact Jennifer@traumafoundation.org or call (575) 525-9511.

Save the Date

ANNUAL CONFERENCE November 11 to 14, 2010

TCAA will be hosting its annual conference in San Diego, CA at the *Hilton San Diego Bayfront*. **TCAA has negotiated very affordable rates for this newest waterfront hotel.** The hotel is adjacent to the San Diego Convention Center, across the street from PETCO Park, home of the *San Diego Padres* and minutes from the San Diego International Airport (SAN). It is a short walk from downtown's *Gaslamp Quarter*.



TRAUMA FINANCE & BUSINESS PLANNING COURSE

Thursday, November 11, 2010

TRAUMA CENTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Friday, November 12, 2010

NEW COURSE OFFERED THIS YEAR

COMPREHENSIVE TRAUMA PI COURSE

Saturday, November 13, 2010

TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTOR COURSE

(CME's will be available)

Friday - Sunday, November 12- 14, 2010

Conference brochure will be sent at a later date

TCAA Annual Membership Meeting Notice

The TCAA annual membership meeting will be held during the conference luncheon on **Friday, November 12, 2010**. The Board will preside over the meeting and discuss member activities. All members are invited to attend.

For more information: Call (575)525-9511 or visit www.traumafoundation.org

