



FAST FACT: More than 29,000 patients were treated at Florida trauma centers in 2002.

TRAUMA CENTER REQUIREMENTS

Trauma centers are an integral part of Florida's healthcare system. Because of the rigid set of requirements and certifications, trauma centers are uniquely qualified to provide the highest level of trauma care. These certifications ensure that the trauma centers provide the highest level of servicing possible for emergency healthcare. Below is an analysis of requirements that trauma centers (Level I, II and pediatric) and emergency rooms must meet (many emergency rooms exceed their requirements to provide better critical care):

Requirements	Level I	Level II	Pediatric	Emergency Room
General surgeon onsite, 24 hours a day	YES	NO ¹	NO ¹	NO
Trauma surgeon always responds	YES	YES	YES	NO
Anesthesiology team onsite, 24 hours a day	YES	YES	YES	NO
Operating room reserved 24 hours a day	YES	YES	YES	NO
Separate pediatric Intensive Care Unit	YES	NO	YES	NO
Orthopedic surgeon, plastic surgeon, neurosurgeon, etc. available within 30 minutes	YES	YES	YES	NO
Trauma research required	YES	NO ²	NO ²	NO
Community outreach required	YES	YES	YES	NO
Trauma education required	YES	YES	YES	NO
Burn unit (onsite and/or transfer agreement)	YES	YES	YES	NO
Pediatric specialists	YES	NO	YES	NO
State inspections to verify optimal care	YES	YES	YES	NO
Average number of physicians and staff meeting patient upon arrival	15 ³	10 ⁴	9-15 ⁵	1 or 2 ⁶

¹ Available within 20 minutes

² Although this item is not required for Level II and Pediatric trauma centers, most meet this requirement to provide optimal service.

³ This number varies at each trauma center; for this comparison we used Orlando Regional Medical Center

⁴ This number varies at each trauma center; for this comparison we used West Florida Hospital (2 MDs, 3 RNs, 2 X-ray technicians, social worker, pastor, respiratory therapist)

⁵ This number varies at each trauma center; for this comparison we used both St. Joseph's Hospital and All Children's Hospital (2 MDs, 2 RNs, 1 paramedic, 1-2 technicians, 2 respiratory therapists, 2 x-ray technicians, 1 anesthesiologist or CRNA, 1 RN or surgery technician, 1 patient advocate, and 1 pastoral staff member)

⁶ 1 MD and/or 1 RN (this number can vary among non-trauma centers)