

FAST FACT: The cost to operate Florida's 20 trauma centers is estimated at more than \$126 million per year.

WHAT IS A TRAUMA CENTER?

The state of Florida defines (Ch. 395, Florida Statute) a *Trauma Center* as a facility within a general medical hospital determined by the Florida Department of Health to be in compliance with trauma center verification standards. These centers treat individuals who have incurred blunt or penetrating injuries or burns, and who require immediate medical intervention/treatment. These individuals require urgent, lifesaving care. Trauma centers are ready at a moment's notice and have designated operating suites reserved to treat patients at all times.

A key to the effectiveness of a trauma center lies in the speed and quality of treatment.

- Getting a patient to definitive care within the first hour, or **golden hour**, of injury **drastically increases their chances of survival.**
- **Trauma mortality is reduced by 15-20% when a very seriously injured patient is treated at a trauma center** versus a non-trauma center.

Emergency rooms are not trauma centers. A trauma center has dozens of specialists*, many of whom are available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. Trauma centers have access to air emergency whose only job is to be available for the moment a serious accident occurs. Trauma centers provide the highest level of care and expertise, with cutting edge technology and resources available for treatment.

Hospital Trauma Center Levels

There are 20 trauma centers in Florida. The following details trauma center levels:

Level I: State-designated center capable of delivering the highest level of expertise and care in the shortest possible time, with capabilities that far exceed a non-trauma center. From prevention through rehabilitation, Level I Trauma centers must be able to provide total care for every aspect of injury. Level I Trauma Centers require the following 15 physician specialists who must be on-call and available 24 hours, 7-days-a-week:

*

- general surgery
- anesthesia
- emergency medicine
- neurosurgery
- orthopedic surgery
- cardiac surgery
- hand surgery
- microvascular/replant surgery
- obstetrics/gynecological surgery
- oral/maxillofacial surgery
- plastic surgery
- critical care medicine
- radiology
- thoracic surgery
- ophthalmic surgery

Level I facilities face rigid requirements for operating rooms/ICUs (including in-house specialists and required equipment), must have either an in-house burn unit or a transfer agreement, and engage in extensive education, outreach and prevention programs. **Florida statute mandates that all Level 1 Trauma Centers must also be Pediatric Trauma Centers.** There are only six Level I Trauma Centers in Florida. They are:

- Broward General Medical Center (*Ft. Lauderdale*)
- Jackson Memorial Hospital/Ryder Trauma Center (*Miami*)
- Memorial Regional Hospital (*Hollywood*)
- Orlando Regional Medical Center
- Shands Jacksonville Medical Center
- Tampa General Hospital

What is a Trauma Center?/Page 2

Level II: Facility that provides initial trauma care, regardless of the injury, with physician subspecialists promptly available. Level II centers generally are the most prevalent facilities in a community that manage the majority of trauma patients. However, depending on geographic location, patient volume, personnel, and resources, the Level II trauma centers may not be able to provide the same comprehensive care as a Level I trauma center. Consequently, they may have to transfer patients with more complex injuries to a Level I trauma centers. There are 12 Level II trauma centers in Florida. They are:

- Baptist Hospital Pensacola
- Bayfront Medical Center (*St. Petersburg*)*
- Delray Medical Center (*Delray Beach*)*
- Halifax Medical Center (*Daytona Beach*)
- Holmes Regional Medical Center (*Melbourne*)
- Lakeland Regional Medical Center
- Lee Memorial Hospital (*Ft. Myers*)
- North Broward Medical Center (*Pompano Beach*)
- Sacred Heart Hospital (*Pensacola*)*
- St. Joseph's Hospital of Tampa*
- St. Mary's Medical Center (*West Palm Beach*)
- West Florida Hospital (*Pensacola*)

* *Denotes that the center is also a Pediatric Trauma Center*

Pediatric: Pediatric trauma centers have the responsibility to meet the same criteria as adult trauma centers. However, they must have a pediatric emergency department, pediatric resuscitation equipment in all patient areas, and a Pediatric ICU. In trauma centers that treat children, trauma surgeons must be credentialed for pediatric care. Pediatric trauma center staff must also be trained in the complex problems of treating children (including infants) and have numerous hours of specialized pediatric care training. In addition to the six Level I trauma centers, which are also classified as pediatric centers, Florida has three pediatric-only trauma centers:

- All Children's Hospital (*St. Petersburg*)
- Miami Children's Hospital

Where are Florida's Trauma Centers?

Trauma Centers in Florida

