



from the desk of John O. Gardner, Executive Director

Advisory Notice

Date: August 23, 2021

Notice No. 2021-04

Subject: TNCC Course extended to Critical Care and Surgical Nurses

Reference: SBOH Approved Nov.19, 2020/Official Dec.19, 2020, MSDH/ BACS Trauma Rules and Regulations

Rule: 3.3.1.4; 4.3.1.4 & 5.3.1.4

History: The Level I trauma program managers have expressed the need to provide Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) to critical care and surgical nurses. One stated concern is the higher number of transferred patients that may move directly to surgery or a surgical critical care unit. The Mississippi Trauma Care System Foundation (MTCSF) also identified trauma patients in our Level II and Level III hospitals that are rapidly transferred out of the emergency department (ED), and nurses beyond the ED are providing trauma resuscitation.

MTCSF supports the same level of care for trauma patients emergently passing through the trauma center. The MTCSF made a request to the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee (MTAC) on July 23, 2021, to extend TNCC reimbursement to nurses working beyond the ED that may be involved in trauma resuscitation care, as described within the MSDH Trauma Rules and Regulation.

Action: MTAC honored the requests and voted to extend the use of Trauma Care Trust Fund educational reimbursement to certain registered nurses staffing critical care and surgical units that receive a direct hand-off of trauma patients from the trauma resuscitation area of the emergency department or directly from Emergency Medical Services. All Level I – Level III trauma centers are included in this extension of reimbursement.

While this will provide additional funding for our trauma centers to extend education to these nurses, it requires the trauma center to determine which staff nurses meet these parameters. A suggested indicator can be found in Rule 3.3.1, 4.3.1.4, and 5.3.1.4, where TNCC certified nurses “participate in the ongoing PI process of the trauma program.” Can the same be said of those critical care and surgical nurses you are selecting to receive TNCC training reimbursement?

The MTAC decision and MTCSF policy change do not necessarily clear the way to reimburse all TNCC courses in trauma centers requiring TNCC as a condition of employment. The MTAC decision does not include Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN).

Effective August 1, 2021, when these guidelines are met, the MTCSF will extend reimbursement for the cost of completing a TNCC provider course. Reimbursement is provided for actual cost, not to exceed the MTCSF Education Funding Policy maximum (currently \$325/student).

To receive reimbursement from MTCSF/MSDH, the student, instructor and/or trauma center staff completing the *Request for Approval and Payment Form* must attest that the current job duties of the student include the initial care of critically ill/injured patients. *Revision 4.1* of the *Request for Approval and Payment Form* consists of two modifications:

- *Request for Approval and Payment Form* has a line entry to record the total count of critical care and surgical nurses attending a course. This will provide data to report the number of critical care and surgical nurses being trained.
- Item six (6) of the attestation section of the *Request for Approval and Payment Form* asks the requestor to attest to eligible of the ICU and surgical students. Direct questions and comments to jgardner@mhanet.org.
- Begin using the *Revision 4.1* of the *Request for Approval and Payment Form* immediately.

I do hope this helps ease the burden on our Level I, II & III trauma Centers.

John Gardner

Mississippi Trauma Care System, Director