



NEWS RELEASE

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Two Utah Hospitals Receive Level I Trauma Center Designation from the Utah Department of Health

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The Utah Department of Health’s (UDOH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is proud to announce that two Utah hospitals have been verified by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and designated by the UDOH as Level I Trauma Centers. The achievement will be awarded Friday to Intermountain Health Care’s LDS Hospital and the University of Utah Health Network’s University Hospital. This achievement recognizes the hospitals’ dedication to providing optimal care for the most severely injured patients.

The designation of trauma centers in Utah is a voluntary commitment on the part of the facility to demonstrate its ability to provide the resources necessary to address the needs of all injured patients. ACS verification program does not have the authority to designate trauma centers. Rather, the program provides confirmation that a trauma center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care. The authority to establish a trauma system in Utah and to designate trauma centers was granted to the UDOH’s Bureau of Emergency Medical Services by the 2000 Utah Legislature.

“These two institutions have proven to be pioneers in trauma care in Utah. I am truly proud of their willingness to take the lead and make the commitment that trauma center designation entails. In this time of economic cutbacks and hardships, these hospitals have voluntarily made the fiscal commitment to continue to provide essential resources for the provision of quality trauma care and to be active constituents in the development of our statewide trauma system,” said Jan Buttrey, Director of the UDOH’s Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

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Key elements of a Level I Trauma Center include 24-hour in-house coverage by general surgeons, and prompt availability of care in specialties such as:

- orthopedic surgery
- neurosurgery
- anesthesiology
- emergency medicine
- radiology
- internal medicine
- critical and cardiac care
- hand, pediatric, microvascular surgery
- hemodialysis

Designated trauma centers must meet essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance, as outlined by the Trauma Criteria in the 1995 Utah Trauma Plan. A Level I Trauma Center is a comprehensive regional resource that is a tertiary care facility central to the trauma system and is capable of providing resources for every aspect of injury, from prevention through rehabilitation. The Center provides leadership in prevention, public education and continuing education for the trauma team members. Both Centers are committed to continued improvement through a comprehensive quality assessment program and an organized research effort to help direct new innovations in trauma care. The designation lasts for three years.

Level I Trauma Center honors will be presented on **Friday, September 7, at 1 p.m. in Room 125 of the Cannon Health Building at 288 North 1460 West**. Jan Buttrey, Director of the UDOH's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services will present the honors to Robert Cash, CEO, of LDS Hospital and Dr. Steven Morris, University Hospital's Trauma Services Medical Director.

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