

**DHS 118 Statement of Scope:**

The objective of this rulemaking is to update the criteria for classifying Levels III and IV trauma centers.

Chapter DHS 118 Provides for the development and implementation of a statewide trauma care system which includes the criteria for classifying hospital's trauma care capabilities. The department is required under s. 256.25 (2) Stats., to base its classification criteria on the standards developed by the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Chapter DHS 118 requires that a hospital seeking approval as a Level I or II trauma center to have verification at that level by the ACS. A hospital seeking approval as a Level III or IV trauma center may have verification at that level by AC or must meet the ACS based classification criteria specified in ch. DHS 118. The classification criteria currently specified in ch. DHS 118 for Levels III and IV trauma centers is based on the 1999 edition of the ACS guidelines and criteria for review and verification of trauma care centers.

The ACS recently issued its 2014 guidelines and criteria for review and verification of trauma care centers. The department proposes to update its classification criteria to be consistent with the 2014 ACS guidelines and criteria.

There are no reasonable alternatives to the rulemaking. The department is required by statutes to base its classification criteria on ACS standards, and to specify the criteria in rule. To do nothing would result in Levels I and II hospitals developing and operating trauma programs under the most recent ACS criteria, while Level III and IV hospitals work under ACS 1999 criteria. Consequently, the hospitals in Wisconsin's trauma care system would develop or operate under different ACS standards.

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