

I. Purpose

- A. To establish a system-wide Quality Improvement (QI) program for evaluating the San Benito EMS Trauma System in order to foster continuous improvement in performance and patient care. In addition, it will assist San Benito EMS in defining standards; evaluating methodologies and utilizing the evaluation results for continued system improvement.
- B. Authority for this policy are found in Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163 California Code of Regulations Section 100255, 100258, 100265 and California Evidence Code, Section 1157.7

II. Definition

- A. "Quality Improvement" (or Quality Assurance) means a method of evaluation of services provided, which includes defined standards, evaluation methodologies and utilization of evaluation results for continued system improvement. Such methods may include, but not limited to, a written plan describing the program objectives, organizations, scope and mechanisms for overseeing the effectiveness of the program.

III. Policy:

- A. Trauma system participants within the San Benito System will maintain a comprehensive quality program.
- B. Quality Improvement Plan:
  - 1. The San Benito EMS Trauma QI Plan consists of the following elements:
    - a) An internal comprehensive quality improvement process (See Policy 101 *Quality Improvement Program and System Evaluation*)
    - b) A periodic local audit of the trauma care provided by the receiving hospital in San Benito County.
    - c) An ongoing external medical audit of case reviews by the Trauma Audit Committees both in-county and out-of-county.
  - 2. Trauma Systems Review
    - a) San Benito EMS will be responsible an annual review of the trauma system, which will be conducted at least every two (2) years. The template for this review will be developed and approved by the Quality Improvement Committee.

