

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2013

Contact: DOH Communications
(850) 245-4111

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ACQUIRES INDEPENDENT TRAUMA SYSTEM
CONSULTATION**

~ Nationally-recognized trauma system experts to assess state's trauma system ~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health today announced that a team from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT) will conduct an independent review of the state's existing trauma system. The consultation will include an independent external review of Florida's current trauma system and recommendations for further system development. The results will inform the Department's current trauma rulemaking process.

"In collaboration with the trauma community, we are developing an inclusive and sustainable state trauma system that provides safe, effective, and efficient care for acutely injured patients," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma System Consultation will help us put national system standards in place."

The consultation team will include a trauma surgeon, an emergency physician, a trauma program manager, a state EMS director, a team leader, and one technical advisor, along with two ACS staff members. Individuals participating on the assessment team will not have any history, affiliation with, or training in the State of Florida. Importantly, the ACS COT systems consultation review is independent of all other COT members, to include the COT executive committee.

The three-and-a-half day consultation process will begin in February.

Florida's trauma system is an organized effort that includes injury prevention, pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS), 22 state-verified trauma centers, and rehabilitation centers. It focuses on lowering death and disability from injury. In 2011, more than 42,000 injured patients received care in this system.

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