

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, M.D., M.P.H.
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

July 31, 2017

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

In accordance with section 395.4025(2)(a), Florida Statutes, this letter is to notify all Florida licensed acute care hospitals of their right to submit a Letter of Intent, DH Form 1840, to apply to become a trauma center. A hospital that is currently approved as a trauma center and intends to add another level of service must also submit a Letter of Intent, as provided by the statute and rules. The Letter of Intent is non-binding, but it is statutorily required to preserve the hospital's right to submit a trauma center application to either become a trauma center or, if already a trauma center, to change designations. The current allocation of Level I and Level II trauma centers among the trauma service areas can be found in Florida Administrative Code Rule 64J-2.010.

Section 395.4025(2)(a), Florida Statutes, provides, "In order to be considered by the Department of Health (Department), a hospital that operates within the geographic area of a local or regional trauma agency must certify that its intent to operate as a trauma center is consistent with the trauma services plan of the local or regional trauma agency, as approved by the Department, if such agency exists."

Submission of a completed Letter of Intent preserves a hospital's right to submit an application to become a trauma center or a trauma center's right to apply for expansion of services for the 2017 application cycle. Submission of a Letter of Intent does not, however, obligate a hospital or trauma center to submit an application. Enclosed is DH Form 1840; please read the instructions carefully when completing this form. For the Department to consider the Letter of Intent, the enclosed DH Form 1840, must be completed and returned to the Department at the address on page two of the form. Letters of Intent postmarked earlier than September 1, 2017 or later than midnight on October 1, 2017, shall not be accepted by the Department. No later than October 16, 2017, the Department will send a letter acknowledging receipt of each hospital's Letter of Intent with directions on how to complete the application process.

Please visit the Department's website to review statutes, rules, standards and applications pertinent to the Letter of Intent and the application process at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/trauma-system//letter-of-intent.html>.

Sincerely,

Kate Kocevar
Trauma System Administrator
Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight

Enclosure: DH Form 1840
cc: Trauma Agencies

