

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON-SITE TRAUMA REVIEW & FACILITY TOUR

(The following list of questions is meant to give you an example of the types of questions you should anticipate during an on-site review. Depending on the level of designation, not all questions will be applicable.)

EMERGENCY ROOM

- How are trauma team activations (TTA) initiated?
- Are TTA criteria posted somewhere?
- Are staff aware of the activation protocols?
- Who initiates the trauma activation?
- How do you communicate with EMS?
- What are the most common causes of delays in the evaluation and disposition of trauma patients?
- How have you educated your staff on their roles in trauma activation and resuscitation of trauma patients?
- Where is the posted call schedule for trauma?
- Are response times monitored? When? Where? Describe how delays are addressed.
- Are the surgeons responding in the defined times?
- If a specific performance improvement issue arose for a trauma patient in the ED, who would you address this with?
- How is EMS integrated in the PI process?
- What are your educational requirements to care for trauma patients?
- Who goes to CT with the patient and is the patient monitored?
- How do you obtain medications for rapid sequence intubations?
- How is additional staff acquired when needed?
- Show me the equipment for pediatric patients.
- Can you regulate the temperature in the trauma room?
- What is your role in disaster management?
- Where are the trauma standards of care?
- Describe the C-spine clearance protocol.

RADIOLOGY

- Is the CT technician in house 24/7?
- Who accompanies the patient to the CT scan?
- When was the last time you had an incident with a trauma patient in the CT scanner, such as a cardiac arrest?
- Where is the resuscitation equipment?
- Do you use Nighthawk-reading service? If so what is the turnaround time for a CT scan?
- Describe your over-read process.
- If you had a performance improvement or patient safety issue for a trauma patient who would you contact to report this?
- Can patient images be read at other hospitals - those you transfer to most often?

LABORATORY

- What is the turnaround time for STAT tests?
- Is point of care testing performed?
- What blood products do you have, number of units available?
- What is the procedure to obtain uncrossmatched blood in the ED/OR for trauma patients?
- Do you have a massive transfusion protocol?
- Who initiates the massive transfusion protocol?
- What is the turn-around time for arterial blood gas analysis?
- Can you perform blood alcohol screening and toxicology?
- What is the turnaround time for type-specific and fully cross-matched blood?
- Do you have factor VII?
- What is the turn-around time for clotting studies?

OPERATING ROOM

- Do you have a room open 24/7?
- How is uncrossed-matched blood accessed in the OR?
- Are you integrated in the Trauma PI process?
- What are your educational requirements to care for trauma patients?
- Where do you recover a sick trauma patient?
- Do you have warming equipment in the OR?
- Who triages the trauma patients in the event of multiple patients?
- What is the process for calling the “next” OR team?

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

- Describe critical care bed triage, resource availability and education/credentialing of staff.
- What is your nurse-to-patient ratio?
- Which physician provides oversight for trauma patients?
- Do you conduct multi-disciplinary rounds? Do nurses participate?
- Do you have access to continuing trauma education?
- What is your role in organ donation?
- Are you familiar with the massive transfusion protocol?
- Does physical therapy participate in rounds every day?
- Is the ICU integrated in the Trauma PI process?
- Are there trauma standards of care?
- What is your role in disaster management?
- Are social services involved and available for trauma patients?
- Are there standards for deep venous thrombosis prevention in trauma patients?
- Are there established procedures for spinal cord injuries?
- Are there established protocols for head injuries?

PATIENT CARE UNIT

- What are the experience and credential requirements for nurses to work on your unit?

- Is continuing trauma education available to your staff?
- What is your role in disaster management?
- Explain the discharge process.
- Who coordinates discharge planning?
- Is trauma management integrated in the orientation process?
- Are social services involved and available for trauma patients?
- Where are trauma standards of care?
- Describe the orthopedic surgeons' participation with trauma patients on the unit.
- Are there problems accessing rehabilitation beds?
- Are there standards for deep venous thrombosis prevention in trauma patients?
- Are there established procedures for spinal cord injuries?
- Are there established protocols for head injuries?

INJURY PREVENTION

- How do you define which populations you target with injury prevention efforts?
- Are injury prevention activities evaluated for effectiveness?
- Are alcohol-related injuries addressed?

TRAUMA PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

- Who manages the trauma PI process?
- Define how a process is reviewed.
- Define improvements made as a result of the trauma performance improvement process.
- What indicators are used?
- Define physician involvement in the process.