

Guidelines for trauma quality improvement programmes



World Health
Organization

iatsic

International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care



INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF SURGERY
SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE
DE CHIRURGIE

Survivance

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and
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TRAUMA SURGERY
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Preface

Injury is a major public health problem. Each year, 5.8 million people die from injury, and many more are disabled. The burden is especially high in low-income and middle-income countries, where over 90% of injury deaths occur. To lower this unacceptable burden, a spectrum of actions is needed, including better surveillance and research, increased implementation of road safety and other forms of injury prevention, and strengthening of the current scenario in trauma care (care of the injured). Many high-income countries have significantly lowered trauma mortality rates by improving the organization of, and planning for, trauma care through implementation of trauma systems that address all aspects of care – from the prehospital setting, to initial resuscitation in the hospital, to longer term definitive care. Such organized trauma systems have been only minimally implemented in most low-income and middle-income countries.

In order to promote greater implementation of effective, affordable, and sustainable trauma systems globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSI) have worked collaboratively in the past to produce *Guidelines for essential trauma care*, which defined the core essential trauma care services that every injured person in the world should realistically be able to receive, even in the lowest income setting. In order to assure the availability of these services, that publication went on to propose the minimum human resources, physical resources, and administrative mechanisms that should be in place in the range of health care facilities globally. That publication and the related *Prehospital trauma care systems* have considerably catalysed improvements in trauma systems in many countries since their release several years ago.

Efforts to strengthen trauma care globally have also received a considerable boost from the adoption of World Health Assembly Resolution WHA60.22 on trauma and emergency care services which called on governments and WHO to increase their efforts to strengthen services for victims of trauma and other medical emergencies. Among other provisions, this resolution specifically called upon WHO “to provide support to Member States for design of quality-

improvement programmes” on trauma care. Quality improvement programmes have been an integral part of trauma systems in high-income countries and have shown considerable promise in the small number of locations in low-income and middle-income countries in which they have been utilized.

In order to contribute to implementation of the World Health Assembly resolution, WHO and IATSI have expanded their collaborative work to produce this guideline on trauma quality improvement. This document seeks to provide how-to-do guidance to support efforts to establish quality improvement programmes for trauma care. It covers a range of techniques, but it emphasizes basic methods that are applicable to all countries globally. These guidelines have been developed collaboratively by our two organizations, along with input from many experts who are actively involved in the care of injured persons worldwide, including several pioneers in the adaptation of quality improvement methods to the realities of low-income and middle-income countries.

In addition to providing technical guidance, these guidelines are intended to stimulate the growth of quality improvement programmes globally and to stimulate greater collaboration between those involved in these programmes and those involved with synergistic efforts to promote greater patient safety and to strengthen health care systems overall. We encourage all who are involved in providing, administering, or planning trauma care services to implement the recommendations contained in these guidelines.

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