

South Shore Hospital Earns State License As A Level II Trauma Center

First and only Licensed Trauma Center in Southeastern Massachusetts

South Weymouth, MA — The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has licensed South Shore Hospital as a Level II Trauma Center. South Shore Hospital is now the first and only licensed trauma center in Southeastern Massachusetts — including the Cape and Islands — and one of only three hospitals in Massachusetts with a Level II license, joining Lahey Clinic of Burlington and Berkshire Medical Center of Pittsfield.

Massachusetts DPH recognizes three levels of trauma centers: Level I through III. Level I Trauma Centers are the highest level, serving as regional teaching and resource hospitals and providing care to the largest number of severely injured patients. Level II Trauma Centers must demonstrate that they are capable of providing comprehensive trauma care to severely injured patients. Level III Trauma Centers provide initial care to injured patients and transfer patients that exceed their resources to Level I or Level II Trauma Centers for a higher level of care.

Massachusetts DPH granted licensure following the Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification that South Shore Hospital's program meets the standards and qualifications of a Level II Trauma Center. As a Level II provider, South Shore Hospital's trauma team is ready to respond immediately to provide optimal care to injured patients, from arrival in the emergency department to discharge from the hospital. Level II licensure also affirms that South Shore Hospital's trauma program is committed to continuous quality improvement, that it includes a medical review process and that it is actively engaged in educational outreach and trauma prevention.

South Shore Hospital launched its pursuit of Level II Trauma Center status in 2004 to meet a pressing community health need. Traumatic injuries are the primary cause of death among those younger than 44 – and traumatic injuries from falls are a leading cause of death for those older than age 65.

South Shore Hospital's Trauma Center operates under the direction of Robert Driscoll, MD, and Deborah Pentecost, RN, trauma program manager, with key support from Catherine Brown, RN, injury prevention coordinator, Kathy Robertson, trauma registrar, and Deb McGrath, trauma registrar. Joining them in building and sustaining South Shore Hospital's program has been the regional EMS community, as well as the hospital's emergency, surgical, anesthesiology, pathology, orthopedic, neurosurgery, cardiovascular, pediatric, hospitalist, critical care, medical/surgical, diagnostic imaging, respiratory, laboratory, rehabilitation, quality management and clinical professional development departments.

Level II trauma center licensure was made possible, in part, through more than 30,000 charitable donations to South Shore Hospital's "Heart of the South Shore" fundraising campaign. "We are extremely grateful to everyone in our community who has helped make it possible for South Shore Hospital to provide a level of trauma care that is unmatched in our region," said Richard H. Aubut, South Shore Hospital president and chief executive officer