



**COLORADO**  
**Health Facilities & Emergency**  
**Medical Services Division**  
Department of Public Health & Environment

January 6, 2021

Re: Waiver of Requirement for On-site Trauma Designation Reviews due to COVID-19 Response

Dear Trauma Community:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Department) would like to thank you for your continued and invaluable contributions to Colorado's COVID-19 crisis response. We know this is a time of great stress and uncertainty, and the Department is committed to easing some of our regulatory requirements during this time. As such, we wanted to notify you of the following actions taken on behalf of the Department's Trauma Section.

The Department hereby issues a blanket waiver to allow the resumption of trauma designation site reviews in a virtual format until notification by the Department regarding the cessation of the waiver. Once the blanket waiver is terminated, facilities will return to on-site reviews, unless regulatory change can be accomplished by that time.

This waiver is granted for the "on-site" language (highlighted below) as found in 6 CCR 1015-4, Chapter Three, 301.

- "4. New Facility...
  - C. Site Review Procedure
    - (1) Any facility requesting a new Level I through V designation shall undergo an **on-site** review. The Department will set a review date no more than ninety (90) days before the new facility opens or commencement of operation at the new designation level...
    - (6) The Department will provide the applicant with the names of the **on-site** reviewers once they have been selected...
  - D. Designation Decision Procedure...
    - (3) The Department's final determination regarding each application shall be based upon consideration of all pertinent factors including, but not limited to, the application, the evaluation and recommendations of the **on-site** review team, the recommendation from SEMTAC or DRC, the best interests of trauma patients, and any unique attributes or circumstances that make the facility capable of meeting particular or special community needs."

And

- "5. Replacement Facility...
  - C. Site Review Procedure

- (1) Any facility requesting replacement designation at the same level for a new physical plant shall undergo an on-site review at the new location...
- (5) The Department will provide the applicant with the names of the on-site reviewers once they have been selected...
- (7) The on-site review may consist of, but is not limited to, consideration of the following:"

And

"6. Renewal of Existing Facility...

C. Site Review Procedure...

- (3) The Department will provide the applicant with the names of the on-site reviewers once they have been selected...
- (5) The on-site review team shall evaluate the capability of the facility to meet the responsibilities, required equipment, and performance criteria appropriate to its designation level as identified in these rules through the following...

D. Designation Decision Procedure...

- (4) The Department's final determination regarding each application shall be based upon consideration of all pertinent factors, including, but not limited to, the application, the evaluation and recommendations of the on-site review team, the recommendation from SEMTAC or DRC, compliance history, the best interests of trauma patients, and any unique attributes or circumstances that make the facility capable of meeting particular or special community needs..."

And

"302. Enforcement and Disciplinary Process...

3. Re-Review Fee Structure...

- B. These fees shall apply to all on-site trauma re-reviews conducted subsequent to the effective date of these rules.

4. Denials.

- A. The Department may deny an application for Level I-V or RPTC designation to a new, replacement, or existing facility for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:...
- (3) The facility refuses any part of an on-site review,..."

These rules are being explicitly waived due to consequences across the entire healthcare system resulting from COVID-19. All other regulations and obligations remain in place.

If you have questions regarding this waiver, please feel free to contact Martin Duffy, Trauma Section Manager, at martin.duffy@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Randy Kuykendall  
Division Director  
Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division