



TETAF UPDATE

January 30, 2012

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TETAF Submits Application for Federal Grant

In December, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requested applications for grants through its Health Care Innovation Center to improve health, improve outcomes and reduce costs. TETAF submitted a letter of intent to make application on Dec. 19, and the full proposal by the Jan. 27 deadline.

TETAF's proposal targets trauma, cardiac and stroke care delivered to geriatric patients. TETAF proposes to establish baseline outcomes data for Medicare patients. Working through participating Regional Advisory Councils, TETAF will deliver education targeting EMS, trauma medical directors and staff of designated trauma and stroke support facilities. The education will promote a better understanding of the geriatric patient's response to injury and illness, and introduce the concept of a Geriatrics Response Team. In addition, TETAF will develop outreach materials to educate the general public about injuries common to the elderly, as well as the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke.

Ongoing data collection will track improvements in care and patient outcomes as the new guidelines and processes are implemented.

The grant builds on the infrastructure already established through trauma designation and stroke certification. In addition, it capitalizes on the integration from pre-hospital through post-acute providers created through TETAF's membership.

CMS is expected to announce grant recipients in March. Keep your fingers crossed!

Feb. 14 Deadline to Apply for Hospitals to Apply for Trauma Funding

The deadline for application for the 2012 hospital allocation from the Designated Trauma Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Account is Feb. 14. In mid-November, the Texas Department of State Health Services' Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination mailed application information to administrators of all designated hospitals and those "in pursuit of designation." They also notified trauma coordinators/trauma program managers via email. Note that late applications **will not** be accepted.

Some \$54.7 million is available for distribution to hospitals in 2012. The distribution follows the statute, which requires that:

- 15 percent of the total be divided equally among all eligible applicant hospitals; and
- 85 percent of the remaining amount of be distributed based on the percentage of uncompensated trauma care an eligible hospital provided in relation to the total uncompensated trauma care provided by all eligible applicant hospitals.

For more information, contact Emily Parsons at 512/834-6792.

TETAF Board Holds Planning Retreat

Members of TETAF's board met Jan. 17-18 in Austin to review goals for 2012, and establish priorities for each division's projects. Board members reviewed the organization's overall goals and objectives listed on the website, and made minor edits; changes will be incorporated and posted soon.

Much of the retreat was spent working on the TETAF application for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' innovation grant (*see story above*). The board recognizes the stiff competition from a number of national major players in the health care field. However, board members believe TETAF has a great concept, and that some of the brightest people in the field are here in Texas. Whether TETAF is successful or not with the CMS application, the process has been an important learning experience for TETAF in grant development. TETAF will continue to look for other opportunities to apply for funds that would support the vision outlined in the CMS grant. Board members agree that better trauma, stroke and cardiac care for the geriatric population will move the Texas trauma system forward and help achieve TETAF's mission.

The board will finish the planning process at its Feb. 7 meeting.

GETAC to Meet Feb. 8-10; TETAF Divisions, Membership Meetings Coincide

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council has scheduled a series of meetings Feb. 8-10 at the Hilton Austin Airport. For the first time, TETAF will hold its division and general meetings at the same location to make it easier for members to participate. GETAC committees will meet on Feb. 8 and 9, with the council meeting set for 9 a.m. on Feb. 10. TETAF again will provide real-time video streaming for those unable to attend.

TETAF's division meetings begin at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, followed by the general meeting at 5:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Archives of the August and November 2011 GETAC meetings are available for viewing through the TETAF website – www.tetaf.org. Currently access to these files is available to anyone. In May, TETAF will begin posting these files in a subscribers/members-only area; TETAF

subscribers/members are encouraged to register now on the TETAF website. In the upcoming months, more of TETAF's Web content will be available to subscribers/members only.

While the online viewing provides an opportunity for more stakeholders to observe the GETAC meetings, it still is important for EMS, trauma and acute-care providers to participate in person in the GETAC process.

TETAF Will Repeat TCAR Course in March

TETAF will repeat the two-day Trauma Care After Resuscitation course **March 26-27** in conjunction with CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. Acute-care, critical care and perioperative nurses in the Beaumont area are encouraged to attend this training session, which will provide attendees with foundational, evidence-based information and critical thinking skills necessary to care for the hospitalized trauma patient. The course covers a wide range of pathophysiologic and nursing concepts.

The broad, core-level program begins at 8 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. each day; attendees should arrive 15-30 minutes prior to the class start time to check-in. The course will be offered in the **CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Outpatient Pavilion**, located at 755 N. 11th St., in Beaumont.

Attendees will receive 14 contact hours of continuing education. General registration fee is \$300 and includes all course materials. Meals and beverages will be provided by St. Elizabeth's and TETAF.

Register online at www.tcarprograms.com or go to www.tetaf.org; contact TCAR at 855/438-8227 for questions related to registration. More information is available from TETAF's Brenda Putz at bputz@tetaf.org.

Regulatory Update

All of TETAF's divisions currently are going through the Chapter 157 trauma/EMS rules in preparation for potential revisions by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Through the GETAC subcommittees, TETAF divisions have submitted proposed revisions to the following sections: 157.125 (trauma center designation); 157.133 (stroke support center designation), 157.122 (Trauma Service Areas), 157.123 (regional emergency medical services and trauma systems).

GETAC's EMS Committee, led by Dudley Wait, reviewed and submitted recommendations for sections 157.1-157.44.

A TDSHS draft of proposed revisions to the rules is anticipated in the fall. Once posted, stakeholders will have ample time to review and offer additional recommendations for revisions. Once the proposed rules are published, there will be a public comment period.

Administrator's Handbook Nearing Completion

The Hospital Administrator's Introduction to the Texas Trauma System and Trauma Center Designation is nearing completion. A project of the TETAF Trauma Division, the comprehensive booklet provides hospital chief executive officers with an overview of Texas trauma program requirements. The booklet emphasizes the CEO's role in leading a facility and trauma program staff through successful trauma center designation and subsequent maintenance of status.

In February, TETAF will mail a copy of the booklet to the CEO of each hospital that could be designated, including those that already have achieved a level of designation. A cover letter will accompany the booklet, and the content will be tailored to those already designated and will encourage non-participating hospitals to consider designation.

TETAF Contracts for Communications Services

TETAF has retained A.Ward Communications to provide a full-range of communications services for the organization. Ann Ward, APR, long-time senior vice president of Corporate Communications for the Texas Hospital Association, owns the business which works with clients to develop effective communications strategies, including public education/public information campaigns. Ward will work with TETAF staff and board on all aspects of the organization's communication, helping develop and implement strategies to raise awareness of TETAF and enhance member engagement.

Prior to expanding her business, Ward worked at THA for more than 26 years in a variety of communications roles. Previously, she worked as a hospital public relations/marketing director in San Angelo, and has a background in journalism as a print media reporter.

Mark Your Calendar

TETAF has scheduled meetings for 2012; be sure to put these dates on your calendar and plan to participate:

- Feb. 7 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC
- March 7 @ 10 a.m. CT – Conference Call
- March 26-27 – TCAR course, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Beaumont
- May 8 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC
- June 6 @ 10 a.m. CT – Conference Call
- June/July – TETAF Strategic Planning Meeting
- Aug. 14 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC
- Sept.14 – Data Management course, Houston area
- Oct. 3 @ 10 a.m. CT – Conference Call
- Nov. 17 – Face-to-face meeting in Austin in conjunction with GETAC

*Additional meetings may be set, subject to the call of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

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