

RAC Operation Guidelines

Education and Training

Education and training is an essential component in trauma care, enabling a continuation of knowledge and skills to flow to entities and individual healthcare providers throughout the trauma service areas. Not only does continuing education and training provide the necessary means of educating healthcare providers, it allows them to provide more efficient care to trauma patients, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality. This is accomplished through but not limited to performance improvement processes, injury prevention and public education of trauma. Each RAC should be focused on budgets that enhance funding of not only initial education of healthcare providers (ECA, EMT/P, etc.), but on continued educational specialty such as provider courses like ATLS, PHTLS, PALS, ENPC, APLS, BTLS, TNCC, and PEPP just to mention a few. As such, RAC should actively:

1. Develop, coordinate and or schedule education programs that meet the needs identified through the RAC annual needs assessment and or learning skills deficits identified through regional Performance Improvement findings.
2. Develop educational offerings to meet milestones addressed in continuums of care, injury prevention and similar programs that evaluate processes as to the usefulness of program contents and their impact on trauma system development
3. Facilitate provision of CE programs designed to meet the learning needs of all levels and disciplines of healthcare providers on an ongoing basis.
4. Maintain records of all CE program, especially RAC sponsored/funded, and made available to DSHS upon request
5. Inform members or member organizations of grants/funding opportunities available through government and or private foundation sources. Best practice is to provide this information on RAC website, periodic mailings/meeting announcements.
6. Serve as a catalyst to integrate police, fire, sheriff's office, county, public health officials and media into community-based planning and advisory group to promote injury prevention efforts. Working in conjunction with regional resource organizations, broad-based community approaches toward injury reduction should be created. Documentation should be maintained of all such RAC coordinated efforts. The RAC should provide and/or assist in coordinating public education programs that inform area citizens and stakeholders regarding the need for system development, problems related to system access, and community injury patterns. The RAC should maintain summary information and records regarding such education efforts.