



MCH classified as Level II Trauma Center

Medical Center Hospital is now one of 16 Level II trauma centers in the state of Texas. Trauma centers in the state are ranked on a scale of one through four, with one being the highest level.

In the state, there are 16 centers listed by the American College of Surgeons at Level I, 16 at Level II, 48 at Level III, and 187 listed at Level IV. The closest Level I is University Medical Center in Lubbock.

In order to be considered a trauma center, a hospital must also meet specific criteria as outlined by the Department of State Health Services, according to Texas J regional advisory council. Odessa is part of region J, and the state is broken up into 22 different regions.

“Currently, we are not looking at reaching Level I,” Trauma Program Director Phyllis Craig-Blanco said, adding Level I facilities have a residency program in trauma.

MCH is the only Level II trauma center in the Permian Basin, and serves 17 counties, including patients from counties in southeastern New Mexico. With the new ranking, the hospital can also receive patients from Abilene and San Angelo, Blanco said.

To qualify for the ranking, which Blanco said the hospital had started working toward since 2010, MCH must have a certain number of trauma surgeons; provide staffing dedicated to trauma in every area of the hospital; provide access to air transport; and provide consultation to rural areas through a 24-hour phone line.

“What this means for our community ... is we’ll have board certified physicians and specialists on-call 24 hours (at the hospital),” MCH spokeswoman Susan Thornton said.

The hospital is also subjected to inspection every three years and must meet criteria set by the American College of Surgeon’s Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient.

“You start preparing the day the review (for approval) is complete,” Blanco said.

Dr. Sudip Bose, an emergency room doctor with MCH, said MCH medical staff members saw 51,000 patients last year. Currently, he added, the hospital was on track to see even more patients in 2013.

With the large number of vehicle accidents in the Permian Basin with trauma being considered as a sudden, life-threatening injury, Bose said it was important for the community to be aware of what the hospital has achieved.

“It’s not about the ranking, it’s about the community,” Bose said. “Having this here, I felt more confident in the backup I have knowing I can better provide services to the community.”

http://www.oaoa.com/people/health/article_7e8d3d84-eb35-11e2-8a7f-001a4bcf6878.html

