

What is a Level II Trauma Center?

Trauma centers are verified by the American College of Surgeons. Good Samaritan Hospital is a Level II, which means that we have a wider range of surgical specialists than a Level III.

At a Level II, emergency room services and surgical services must be available 24/7. Level II trauma centers must have physician specialists including neurosurgeons, pulmonologists, intensivists, trauma surgeons, anesthesiologists, and orthopedists covering call 24/7. A Level II trauma center must also be part of a hospital that provides acute critical care and care throughout the continuum of the patients' illness and injury, as well as an in-house lab. They also need advanced life support immediately available on air transport, 9-1-1 and long-distance transport.

The difference between a Level II and Level I is that Level Is have in-house specialists (not on-call specialists) and provide internal research. Level Is must care for more than 1,200 patients a year. Good Samaritan Hospital cares for between 750 and 800 trauma patients each year.

In order to be a Level II Trauma Center, a hospital must have not only the specialists, but also the necessary equipment and staff in the Emergency Room, the Operating Room, the ICU and on the floor. All of this must be in place in order to receive patients and care for them.

Being a Level II means that we can treat head injuries ranging from motor vehicle crashes, ATV accidents, falls, motorcycle crashes, bicycle crashes, horses/other animals and rodeos, just to name a few. GSH has the technology and the physician specialists to diagnose, monitor and surgically stabilize critically head-injured patients. Because Good Samaritan Hospital is a verified Level II trauma center, we are able to treat people with multiple injuries such as facial fractures, rib fractures, collapsed lung(s), internal bleeding from injuries to the diaphragm, liver, spleen, bowel; fractured bones, back and spine fractures, trauma to spinal cord, and wounds/lacerations.

Along with the ACS standard comes a stringent performance improvement program and active involvement in local and regional injury prevention. These are just a few of the critical standards that have to be met--there are many others that are too numerous to list.

In addition to all of these things, being a Level II Trauma Center means Good Samaritan Hospital is the region's trauma center, as designated by the Nebraska statewide trauma system through the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Nebraska has four designated trauma regions; Good Samaritan serves Region 3, including the following counties: Blaine, Brown, Buffalo, Cherry, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Howard, Kearney, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Sherman, Thomas, Valley and Wheeler.