Acute Care Services Committee
April 8, 2009

Update: Counting Trauma/Burn Cases to Exclude when Determining Operating Room Need

The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (NC OEMS) is implementing a data reporting system that will provide trauma patient data reports extracted from the trauma registry. NC OEMS will be able to query the trauma registry and provide to the Planning Section the following data by trauma center:

Number of "Trauma Patients" who:
- are admitted to the hospital for 24 hours or more from an ED, die in the ED, are DOA; or
- are transferred from the ED to the OR or to the ICU; or
- are transferred in by air ambulance; or
- are transferred to another hospital

"Trauma Patient means any patient with an ICD-9-CM discharge diagnosis 800.00-959.9 excluding 905-909 (late effects of injury), 910.0-924 (blisters, contusions, abrasions, and insect bites), and 930-939 (foreign bodies)."
(from 10A NCAC 13P .0102 DEFINITIONS)

NC OEMS anticipates being able to begin generating reports in approximately three months. Therefore, once NC OEMS begins generating reports, I will be able to obtain trauma case data from the trauma registry to use in the operating room methodology.

Use of the trauma registry data means accepting the "Trauma Patient" definition from 10A NCAC 13P .0102.

If the Committee chooses to use data reported by NC OEMS, recommend the following:
- The Agency works with the trauma/burn center hospital planners to refine the definition of which trauma/burn surgical patients to exclude, e.g., exclude, "trauma patients transferred on the same day from the ED to the OR", and provides the refined definition to the Acute Care Services Committee for approval.
- The NC OEMS "trauma patient" report data is tested by comparing it to data provided by the trauma/burn centers.
- For the 2010 Proposed Plan, if a need is generated in an operating room service area with a Level I or Level II trauma center, trauma/burn surgical patient data is obtained from the trauma center, using the refined definition.