

# Press Release

## Pioneer Medical Center Receives Full Designation as a Montana Trauma Receiving Facility

*Big Timber, MT, February 13, 2017:* The trauma service at Pioneer Medical Center has been designated as a Trauma Receiving Facility by the EMS & Trauma Systems Section of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. This achievement recognizes the medical center's dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients. The period of designation will run January 2017 through January 2019.

Designated trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance, as outlined by the Montana Trauma Facility Designation Criteria. There are four levels of facility designation in the State of Montana. Trauma Receiving Facilities provide initial resuscitation and stabilization before transferring to a higher level of care. The Montana trauma system is designed to provide an organized, preplanned response for trauma patients by unifying limited health care resources into a coordinated structure which can provide optimal patient treatment throughout the continuum of trauma care.

Interim CEO Mike Hammer says "Earning this designation reflects on the quality of our staff, dedication in training, and development of policies that prepare us to serve at any moment."

Designation in the Montana Trauma System is voluntary and the overall goal is to ensure healthcare facilities are consistently providing optimal care for a trauma victim, preventing unnecessary death and disability from trauma and emergency illness, and are conducting trauma prevention activities in the community to decrease the incidence of trauma.

Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans under age 46 and accounts for almost half of the deaths for that age group. It is the third leading cause of death overall and accounts for more years of potential life lost before age 75 than any other cause, including cancer or heart disease.

Further information can be obtained at *EMS & Trauma Systems*: <http://montanaems.mt.gov>

