

2023 TRAUMA REPORT



NORTH MISSISSIPPI
HEALTH SERVICES

Caring for a trauma is a time-sensitive issue. What happens in the first few minutes after an accident, disaster or traumatic event can make all the difference to a patient.

North Mississippi Medical Center-Tupelo is home to the region's only Level II Trauma Center and is a recognized leader in the care of injured patients. Our Level II Adult and Secondary Pediatric Trauma Center provides specialized care 24/7 to the victims of car crashes, farming injuries, falls and other traumatic events. Whenever the unexpected happens, our team of expert trauma specialists are ready to spring into action.

Available services include:

- Trauma surgeons, orthopedic trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, cardiovascular surgeons, plastic surgeons, radiologists and anesthesiologists
- Emergency Department with board-certified emergency physicians and specially trained trauma nurses
- CareFlight, Critical Care Transport and Ground Ambulance Services
- Performance Improvement and Patient Safety program to improve patient safety and outcomes
- Prevention and trauma education programs for area providers

2023 Trauma Registry at a Glance



1,569 patients
met trauma registry criteria



Categories
Blunt injuries
Penetrating injuries
Burns*

*Patients with serious burns are usually transferred to a burn center after being stabilized



Leading Causes of Injury
67% of patients who met trauma registry criteria came from
Motor vehicle accidents
Falls



Leading Day for Injury
Saturday



Vehicle Crashes
588 patients

(37% of all trauma registry patients in 2023)
41% admit to not wearing a seatbelt
15% were positive for alcohol



Gunshot Wounds
75 patients (9% decrease from 2022)
Majority involved handguns



ATV & UTV Accidents
106 patients

Only 2 were wearing a helmet
4 patients were killed
11 patients will require long-term care for the rest of their lives

TRAUMA SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Our team follows a trauma patient from the time an ambulance arrives on the scene until the patient is discharged from the hospital. Patients who meet Mississippi State Department of Health trauma registry criteria, if admitted, are followed daily by the Trauma Department. Our team assesses the patient's dietary, pharmaceutical, rehabilitation, pastoral care, social work, physiological and other needs to ensure they are met and that the patient is ready for discharge with the skills needed for a complete recovery.

Trauma Registry

The trauma registry is an electronic database with uniform data elements that describe the injury event, demographics, prehospital information, diagnosis, care, outcomes and cost of treatment. The trauma registry reports clinical information daily to staff, monthly to MSDH and yearly to National Trauma Data Bank. This allows us to identify trends in quality measurement, shape public policy and benchmark at national, state and local levels.

Stop the Bleed

NMMC-Tupelo Trauma Services teaches Stop the Bleed, a course that teaches how to recognize life-threatening bleeding and apply proper bleeding control techniques. Attendees of all ages with no prior medical knowledge learn to apply direct pressure, pack wounds and apply tourniquets.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Advanced Trauma Life Support is a trauma team-teaching, interactive learning experience for physicians and advanced practice providers who care for injured patients. This course teaches an organized, systemic team approach for evaluating and managing the seriously injured by using scenario-based interactive learning. In addition, emergent lifesaving surgical skills are acquired through a five-step training method using simulation mannequins.

Trauma Nursing Core Course provides basic trauma education and psychomotor skills for nurses who care for injured patients.

Regional, State & National Trauma Committees

NMMC-Tupelo Trauma Services is actively involved with external trauma-related committees that meet regularly to help prevent trauma from occurring while improving the outcomes of injured people. Some examples of committee participation in 2023 include:

- North District Performance Improvement Committee
- State of Mississippi Performance Improvement Committee
- State of Mississippi Trauma Registry Sub-Committee
- State of Mississippi Trauma Registry RFP Task Group
- State of Mississippi Trauma Rules and Regulations Task Group
- Mississippi Trauma System Foundation Town Hall Meetings
- State of Mississippi Trauma Registry Users Group Meetings
- Mississippi Healthcare Alliance
- American Trauma Society
- Trauma Center Association of America

State of Mississippi Trauma Symposium

Patrick Graham, Trauma Registry and Performance Improvement coordinator, and Kelly Deakle, Trauma Program manager, were featured speakers for the 2023 State of Mississippi Trauma Symposium. The symposium focused on Navigating Disparities in Trauma Care and included a Cadaver Lab, Coding Tips and Tricks, Neonatal Training, Pediatric Trauma Code Training, Advance Burn Life Support and more.

TRAUMA SERVICES TEAM Medical Directors

Dr. Charles Pigott and Dr. David Gilliland have worked together since 2002 to enhance trauma care at our facility. Their expertise in treating and caring for trauma patients in our region serves our communities with a wealth of knowledge.

Our surgeons are "on call" for trauma care 24/7 and provide excellent trauma response times. These dedicated surgeons have 15 minutes or less to arrive when called to the Emergency Department for a seriously injured trauma patient. Both physicians are also involved in the day-to-day administrative duties of the Trauma Department.

Ambulance Services

North Mississippi Ground Ambulance (NMGA) provides ambulance services in Clay, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Tishomingo and Webster counties, and works closely with area 911 Dispatch Centers. NMGA also provides non-emergency transportation to move patients to and from North Mississippi Health Services facilities and personal residences. NMGA transported 563 patients from trauma scenes in 2023.

CareFlight

When it comes to trauma patients, out-of-hospital time is a major factor in patient outcomes. The golden hour principle directs Emergency Medical Services providers to deliver trauma patients to definitive care quickly. The time saved by air transport is an important factor in trauma care and patient survival, especially in some of the rural areas in north Mississippi. A helicopter pilot and two medical crew members, who are Certified Flight Registered Nurses and Flight Paramedics – provide critical care treatment to patients at any scene or referring facility within a 150-miles radius at their time of need. Based at Tupelo Regional Airport, CareFlight has logged thousands of flights since 1986, including providing critical care transport services for 75 trauma patients in 2023.

Critical Care Transport

NMMC's Critical Care Transport (CCT) serves as an extension of the Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit by transferring patients in critical condition from one hospital to another hospital as needed. Launched in 2018, Critical Care Transport services are an option when CareFlight is unavailable because of hazardous weather or other circumstances. Critical Care Transport can also be utilized when additional life support equipment is needed that cannot be accommodated on CareFlight because of space constraints, or when a patient exceeds the aircraft's weight limit.

Critical Care Transport is staffed 24 hours daily by a registered nurse, paramedic and EMT, all of which have received advanced training in caring for critically ill patients. Although this unit does not respond to scene calls, the CCT team is able to provide many of the same services as CareFlight.

Patient Logistics Center

The Patient Logistics Center (PLC) communication specialists dispatch ambulances, CareFlight, Critical Care Transport and wheelchair vans. Registered nurses with the PLC get patients accepted or transferred to or from NMHS facilities (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes) by connecting the care providers involved via a recorded phone line. PLC bed controllers/schedulers place patients in appropriate room assignments according to their provider's orders, level of care required, specific diagnosis and specific needs.

Our PLC communicates bed availability to our health system and others, so direct admits are processed as quickly as possible.

Emergency Department

Our ER features 58 patient rooms, including seven for trauma, seven for cardiac care and two for critical pediatric cases. NMMC-Tupelo Emergency Department also houses a Rapid Medical Evaluation Unit, located in the waiting area to rapidly screen, treat and disposition patients with minor acuity complaints.

Alabama Patients

Because of NMMC-Tupelo's close proximity to Alabama, we have been part of the Alabama State Trauma System since 2015. In 2023, we received 73 patients from Alabama. Of these patients, 56 came directly from a trauma scene and the remaining 17 patients were transferred from Alabama hospitals.

We truly want to serve all the people in our region and give them the best trauma care available.

CareFlight
1-800-843-4220

Ground Ambulance Services
(662) 377-4159 or 911 for Emergencies

Critical Care Transport
1-800-398-9337

Patient Logistics Center
1-800-398-9337

NMMC-Tupelo
(662) 377-3000