



## Valley Children's trauma center gets positive review

- *Now verified as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons*
- *"This verification is important to our Trauma Center"*

Valley Children's Hospital in Madera has been verified as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons. It is the only pediatric trauma center in the region.

"This verification is important to our Trauma Center, as the ACS recognizes Valley Children's – from our surgeons and nurses to our therapists and trauma coordinators – for providing exceptional pediatric trauma care as quickly as possible, from

start to finish, for children involved in car crashes, falls, accidents, acts of violence and other trauma,” says Valley Children’s Healthcare President and CEO Todd Suntrapak.

“Trauma center levels across the United States are identified in two fashions: a designation process and a verification process,” explains the American Trauma Society. “The different levels (ie. Level I, II, III, IV or V) refer to the kinds of resources available in a trauma center and the number of patients admitted yearly.”

Earlier this year, representatives with the ACS’s Verification Review Committee visited the hospital. They assessed commitment, readiness, resources, policies, patient care and performance improvement among other requirements. Verified trauma centers must meet essential criteria that ensure capability and institutional performance as outlined by the ACS.

“Injury is the leading cause of death and acquired disability for children, and providing expert trauma care across the continuum – from injury prevention to pediatric rehabilitation

and family restoration – is at the core of our mission,” says Michael Allshouse, medical director of Valley Children’s pediatric trauma program and pediatric surgery.

This verification by the ACS comes two years after the Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency designated Valley Children’s Hospital as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, the only such center between the Bay Area and Los Angeles. With that designation, critically injured children could be transported directly from the field to Valley Children’s Hospital, ensuring they receive expert pediatric care even sooner than before.