

## **BroadcastMed | Requirements of a Level 2 Trauma Center**

MICHAEL L. CRAUN: A Level II hospital, or Level II trauma center, has certain requirements by the state and the American College of Surgeons. A Level I has certain requirements. The main differences in those requirements occur in the research area and in the training of residents and fellows in trauma. There's also a slight requirement differential in the type of subspecialty coverage you need and in the ICU coverage. So I'll expand on that a little bit. For a Level I trauma center, you have to have a research program that actually publishes peer-reviewed journals. And they require a significant amount of publications over a three year period. You also have to have a training program which includes a residency program in surgery, at least at the fourth and fifth year level of continuous residency, or a fellowship in trauma or surgical critical care. And then also you have to have a surgically directed intensive care unit, which means that a surgical intensivist, not a medical intensivist, actually is the managing and running individual that manages the ICU for the Level I trauma center. Level II trauma center does not require the research, does not require the training program, and does not require the surgical directed ICU. However, at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center, we do have a surgically directed ICU, with myself and Dr. Ernest Gonzalez as critical care trained surgeons, which I think aids us in applying a higher level of care to the intensive care patients in this particular hospital. If you're going to provide trauma care in a region, you have to be able to match the highest level of care in the region. So with UMC Brackenridge elevating to a Level I trauma center-- approximately, I think, three or four years ago-- and if we're going to be a Level II in the same area, we have to provide the same level of care that they would provide in the majority of areas. Except for extenuating circumstances-- such as limb replantation or microvascular surgery, which are asides from the major trauma-- the major trauma resuscitation, the ICU care, the operating capability, has to be the same here as we would expect downtown. So that's how the Level I experience helped me prepare this hospital for that type of care delivery.