



## Media Release

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### **Ben Taub Hospital Clears First Step toward Level I**

National group grants HCHD's facility a top trauma designation

The American College of Surgeons recently gave Ben Taub General Hospital's effort to re-verify its Level I Trauma designation a passing grade. The preliminary mark clears the way for the hospital to achieve its eighth Level I Trauma designation.

Ben Taub Hospital, part of the Harris County Hospital District, has maintained its trauma status since 1996. In so doing, the hospital adheres to national trauma standards set by ACS. Verification of all trauma hospitals occurs once every three years.

"The re-verification of our trauma designation is a commitment we show to residents of Harris County that means we offer them excellence in trauma care," said Dr. Kenneth Mattox, chief of staff at Ben Taub Hospital. "Ben Taub Hospital continues to be a leader among other institutions in the area of trauma research and state-of-the-art advances."

ACS's findings and a full recommendation from its April 24-25 survey of Ben Taub Hospital were submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), formerly the Texas Department of Health. The state agency will make its final ruling on the hospital's designation in 2-3 months.

Surveyors commended Ben Taub Hospital's commitment to trauma care and cited last year's massive medical response to needs of people affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as examples of the hospital's exceptional disaster responsiveness.

"The success of our survey is a testament of our staff's dedication to patient care," said Robin Garza, trauma services coordinator at Ben Taub Hospital. "Everyone works together for the common goal of helping our patients."

In February, the hospital district's Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital received its Level III Trauma designation from TDSHS. In 1996, LBJ Hospital became the state's first Level III Trauma hospital.

"Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital is to be commended for its ongoing commitment to quality care for the trauma patients in the area," said Eduardo J. Sanchez, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, formerly the Texas Department of Health. "I want to thank you and your staff for your continued leadership role in the development of our state trauma system."

In 2005, Ben Taub Hospital's Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center saw more than 104,000 patient visits.

Ben Taub and LBJ hospitals are part of the Harris County Hospital District. HCHD is the public healthcare system for the nation's third most-populous county. It provides quality health care to more than 1.1 million patient visits each year to residents of Harris County. It also operates Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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