

LEVEL I TRAUMA SERVICES



Across Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho, Harborview Medical Center is the only facility providing Level I trauma services – the most advanced care, available 24/7 – to adult and pediatric patients. As a knowledge resource, Harborview also assists in the training and care provided by scores of emergency departments throughout our state and region.

The UW Physicians, nurses and therapists who staff Harborview’s trauma program care for the most critically injured patients, from resuscitation through rehabilitation. Emergency physicians, surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists and other professionals are always in-house to provide immediate care.

Quick facts

Nearly 6,000 trauma admissions per year make Harborview one of the highest-volume centers in the nation. Among those admissions:

- Are 45 percent of Washington state’s most severely injured patients.
- Almost half are transferred from regional facilities.
- Are nearly 1,000 severely burned people, who receive care at the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center.
- Are nearly 1,000 children, whose small size often requires distinct expertise.

Injury Prevention

The Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center is among the premier institutions researching how and why people sustain injuries. The center’s role in developing laws about seatbelts and distracted driving, and to protect children from school sports injuries, demonstrates its value, as does the success of the campaign to put helmets on Washington’s child bike riders.

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Research

Harborview's research to advance the standards of trauma care – for instance, investigating how genetics affect an individual's recovery after an injury – is internationally recognized. All Harborview physicians are faculty of the University of Washington and support an active research program to enhance the care of trauma patients.

Training Excellence

Ensuring outstanding care and outcomes for patients requires ongoing training on procedures and medications. Staff members respond to simulated emergencies, among other initiatives, which maintain our readiness. Harborview's trauma training seminars attract urgent-care specialists and first-responders from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the paramedics of Medic One programs serving King County.



History & Partnerships

- In 1993, Harborview became Washington's first hospital designated as a Level I adult trauma center. Two years later, by partnering with Seattle Children's for rehabilitation services and therapies, Harborview became the region's only Level I pediatric trauma center.
- Harborview provides medical oversight and education to the flight nurses of Airlift Northwest, which transports patients to area hospitals from throughout the region.
- Harborview partners with the Seattle Fire Department to train all Medic One paramedics in King County.
- Harborview actively supports LifeCenter Northwest's mission to increase organ donation.
- Harborview partners with King County Public Health for disaster-preparedness and serves as the region's Disaster Medical Control Center.