

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 23 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, BAKER, DEAN, DONATUCCI, A. HARRIS,  
 PHILLIPS-HILL, KNOWLES, MILLARD, MURT, O'NEILL, PICKETT,  
 READSHAW AND WARD, JANUARY 24, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 24, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 29, 2012 (P.L.549, No.54), entitled "An  
 2 act establishing a Statewide stroke system of care by  
 3 recognizing primary stroke centers and directing the creation  
 4 of emergency medical services training and transport  
 5 protocols; and providing for the powers and duties of the  
 6 Department of Health," further providing for short title, for  
 7 definitions, for recognition of centers, for emergency  
 8 medical services and for biennial report.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 29, 2012 (P.L.549,  
 12 No.54), known as the Primary Stroke Center Recognition Act, is  
 13 amended to read:

14 Section 1. Short title.

15 This act shall be known and may be cited as the [Primary  
 16 Stroke Center Recognition] Stroke System of Care Act.

17 Section 2. Section 2 of the act is amended by adding  
 18 definitions to read:

19 Section 2. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Acute stroke-ready hospital." A hospital which is  
4 designated as an acute stroke-ready hospital by the joint  
5 commission or a nongovernmental organization that has been  
6 authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7 (CMS) to conduct hospital surveys to ensure compliance with the  
8 CMS Conditions of Participation.

9 "Comprehensive stroke center." A facility which is  
10 designated as a comprehensive stroke center by the joint  
11 commission or a nongovernmental organization that has been  
12 authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
13 (CMS) to conduct hospital surveys to ensure compliance with the  
14 CMS Conditions of Participation.

15 \* \* \*

16 "Primary stroke center." A facility which is designated as a  
17 primary stroke center by the joint commission or a  
18 nongovernmental organization that has been authorized by the  
19 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct  
20 hospital surveys to ensure compliance with the CMS Conditions of  
21 Participation.

22 Section 3. Sections 3, 4(a) and (c) and 5(b)(1) and (2) of  
23 the act are amended to read:

24 Section 3. Recognition of centers.

25 (a) General rule.--Upon application by a licensed acute care  
26 hospital, the department shall recognize the hospital as a  
27 comprehensive stroke center, primary stroke center or acute  
28 stroke-ready hospital if the hospital is certified as a  
29 comprehensive stroke center, primary stroke center or acute  
30 stroke-ready hospital by the joint commission or another

1 nationally recognized accrediting organization that provides  
2 certification for stroke care. The designation shall last as  
3 long as the hospital remains certified [as a primary stroke  
4 center].

5 (b) Suspension or revocation of recognition.--The department  
6 may suspend or revoke [primary stroke center] recognition under  
7 subsection (a) if the department determines that the hospital is  
8 not in compliance with provisions of this act requiring  
9 accreditation as a comprehensive stroke center, primary stroke  
10 center or acute stroke-ready hospital.

11 Section 4. Emergency medical services.

12 (a) List of [primary] all stroke centers.--The department  
13 shall:

14 (1) Make available a list of [accredited] certified  
15 comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers and  
16 acute stroke-ready hospitals to each emergency medical  
17 services agency medical director in this Commonwealth.

18 (2) Maintain a copy of the list of certified  
19 comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers and  
20 acute stroke-ready hospitals in the office designated with  
21 the department to oversee emergency medical services.

22 (3) Post a list of certified comprehensive stroke  
23 centers, primary stroke centers and acute stroke-ready  
24 hospitals on the department's Internet website.

25 \* \* \*

26 (c) Protocols.--The department shall establish protocols  
27 that are related to prehospital assessment, treatment and  
28 transport of stroke patients by licensed emergency medical  
29 services providers[.] that will allow the patient to receive the  
30 appropriate care at a certified stroke center in the shortest

1 amount of time. The protocols shall include plans for triage and  
2 transport of acute stroke patients to the closest [primary]  
3 certified stroke center or a facility that can provide  
4 appropriate treatment if the [primary] certified stroke center  
5 is not within a specified time frame from onset of symptoms.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 5. Biennial report.

8 \* \* \*

9 (b) Contents.--The report shall include:

10 (1) The number, location and county of [accredited]  
11 certified comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke  
12 centers and acute stroke-ready hospitals in this  
13 Commonwealth.

14 (2) Changes in the number and/or locations of certified  
15 comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers and  
16 acute stroke-ready hospitals since the last report.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.