



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 438

LCO No. 2390



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF STROKE CENTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) The Commissioner of
2 Public Health shall establish a process to recognize primary stroke
3 centers in the state. A hospital shall be designated by the Department
4 of Public Health as a primary stroke center if it has been certified as
5 such by The Joint Commission.

6 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) Each acute care hospital,
7 licensed in accordance with chapter 368v of the general statutes, shall:
8 (1) Comply with American Heart Association and American Stroke
9 Association guidelines concerning treatment of stroke; (2) establish
10 written care protocols for the treatment of ischemic and hemorrhagic
11 stroke patients, including transfer of such patients to a primary stroke
12 center, as appropriate; and (3) participate in the American Heart
13 Association's stroke data collection program.

14 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) The Department of Public
15 Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services shall adopt a

16 nationally-recognized stroke assessment tool. Not later than January 1,
17 2015, said office shall publish such stroke assessment tool on its
18 Internet web site and provide a written description of such stroke
19 assessment tool to each emergency medical service organization, as
20 defined in section 19a-175 of the general statutes. Each emergency
21 medical service organization shall implement the use of such stroke
22 assessment tool not later than thirty days after receiving the written
23 description of the stroke assessment tool from said office.

24 (b) The Office of Emergency Medical Services, in consultation with
25 the emergency medical services advisory board, established pursuant
26 to section 19a-178a of the general statutes, shall establish care protocols
27 for emergency medical service organizations relating to the
28 assessment, treatment and transport of persons with stroke. Such
29 protocols may include a plan for the triage and transport of acute
30 stroke patients to the nearest primary stroke center within a specified
31 time from the onset of stroke symptoms.

32 (c) Not later than June first, annually, the Office of Emergency
33 Medical Services shall provide a list of primary stroke centers to each
34 emergency medical services organization and post such list on its
35 Internet web site. Such list may include primary stroke centers located
36 in areas of the states of Rhode Island, New York and Massachusetts
37 that border this state.

38 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) The Commissioner of
39 Public Health shall establish and implement a plan to achieve
40 continuous quality improvement in the care provided to persons with
41 stroke and the system for stroke response. In implementing such plan,
42 the commissioner shall: (1) Develop incentives and provide assistance
43 for the sharing of information and data among healthcare providers
44 relating to stroke; (2) facilitate communication among, and the analysis
45 of health information and data by, healthcare professionals providing
46 care for persons with stroke; (3) ensure evidence-based treatment
47 guidelines are followed in transitioning persons with stroke to

48 outpatient care following discharge from a hospital for acute treatment
49 for a stroke; (4) require primary stroke centers and emergency medical
50 services organizations to report data on the treatment of persons with
51 stroke; (5) analyze data reported in accordance with subdivision (4) of
52 this subsection; and (6) maintain a secure database with information
53 on stroke care in accordance with guidelines established by the
54 American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, the
55 National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The Joint
56 Commission. The data described in this section shall not contain
57 patient-identifiable information.

58 (b) Not later than June 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the
59 Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance with the
60 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
61 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
62 relating to public health concerning improvements that have been
63 made to stroke treatment and stroke response systems in the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Public Health and acute care hospitals to engage in certain activities relating to the treatment of persons with stroke.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]