The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER 90

SENATE BILL 81

Introduced by

SENATOR HOWIE C. MORALES AND REPRESENTATIVE CONRAD D. JAMES
SENATOR MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ
AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE PUBLIC
HEALTH ACT TO PROVIDE FOR EXPANDED SOURCES OF ACCREDITATION
FOR STROKE CENTERS AND PRE-HOSPITALIZATION PROTOCOLS FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 24-1-34 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2012,
Chapter 4, Section 1) is amended to read:

"24-1-34. PRIMARY STROKE CENTERS--COMPREHENSIVE STROKE
CENTERS--ACUTE STROKE CAPABLE CENTERS--DEPARTMENT
CERTIFICATION--RULEMAKING.--

A. In accordance with department rules, the
department shall certify any acute care hospital as a primary
stroke center, comprehensive stroke center or acute stroke
capable center if that hospital has been accredited by the
joint commission or any other nationally recognized
accrediting body as a primary stroke center, comprehensive
stroke center or acute stroke capable center. The department
shall post information regarding certification on the
department's web site. If a hospital loses accreditation as
a primary stroke center, comprehensive stroke center or acute
stroke capable center, the secretary shall also remove that
hospital's certification.

B. In accordance with department rules, the
emergency medical systems bureau of the department shall work
in coordination with all local and regional emergency medical
services authorities statewide on the development of
pre-hospitalization protocols related to the assessment,
treatment and transport of stroke patients by licensed
emergency medical services providers. These protocols shall
include, at a minimum, plans for the triage and transport of
stroke patients to the closest comprehensive or primary
stroke center or, when appropriate, to an acute stroke
capable center.

C. The secretary may adopt rules to assist and
encourage primary stroke centers to enter into coordinated
stroke care agreements with other health care facilities
throughout the state to provide appropriate access to care for
acute stroke patients."
Approved by me this 8th day of April, 2015

Governor Susana Martinez
State of New Mexico