

1 WHEREAS, research shows that patients treated in facilities recognized as stroke and
2 STEMI centers have higher survival rates than patients treated at hospitals which may be in
3 closer proximity to the patient, but that are not stroke or STEMI centers; and

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Emergency Response Network has led a collaborative
5 effort to recognize facilities that are most appropriate for stroke and STEMI care; and

6 WHEREAS, establishment of pre-hospital destination protocols by licensed
7 ambulance services can help to ensure that stroke and STEMI patients are transported to the
8 most appropriate facilities whenever possible.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10 authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals, referred to hereafter as "the
11 department", to promulgate such administrative rules as are necessary to require ambulance
12 services licensed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:1231 et seq. to establish pre-hospital
13 destination protocols related to the assessment and transport of stroke and STEMI patients.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall require, without
15 limitation, establishment of all of the following:

16 (1) Plans for the transport of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive
17 stroke center, primary stroke center, or acute stroke ready hospital, as defined in LAC
18 48:I.18701 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms.

19 (2) Plans for the transport of STEMI heart attack patients to the closest STEMI
20 receiving center or, when appropriate, to a STEMI referring center, as defined in LAC
21 48:I.18901 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall provide that:

23 (1) An ambulance service may either establish its own pre-hospital protocols which
24 conform to the minimum requirements set forth by the department in rule, or adopt the
25 pre-hospital protocols developed and promulgated by the Louisiana Emergency Response
26 Network.

27 (2) If a life-threatening condition arises during the transport of a stroke or STEMI
28 heart attack patient, the ambulance service shall transport the patient to the nearest
29 appropriate hospital.

1 (3) Each licensed ambulance service shall submit to the department annually a copy
2 of its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol.

3 (4) Any ambulance service that revises its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol
4 shall submit the revised protocol to the department no more than thirty days after
5 implementation of the protocol.

6 (5) Nothing in the rules of the department shall be construed to limit the right of a
7 patient to refuse emergency transport to a recommended destination.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall keep on file each
9 transportation protocol it receives pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with this
10 Resolution, and shall make such protocols available to any person upon request.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall promulgate the
12 administrative rules required by this Resolution prior to October 1, 2015.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Authorizes and directs the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to promulgate such administrative rules as are necessary to require licensed ambulance services to establish pre-hospital destination protocols related to the assessment and transport of patients with cardiac and stroke emergencies.