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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
SPONSOR Morales **LAST UPDATED** 01/16/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE EMS Pre-Hospital Protocol Accreditation **SB** 81

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	NFI		

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis

Senate Bill 81 amends Section 24-1-34, Chapter 4, and Section 1 of the Public Health Act. The bill proposes to change the language of the Act to allow the Department of Health to certify New Mexico stroke centers “if that hospital has been accredited by the joint commission or any other nationally recognized accrediting body”. SB 81 also makes other language changes to address the removal of the exclusivity of joint commission as the singular accepted accrediting entity.

SB 81 also requires the Emergency Medical Systems Bureau (EMS) to “work in coordination with all local and regional emergency medical services authorities statewide on the development of pre-hospital 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”.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None reported by DOH.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH recognizes there are national accreditation entities such as “Det Norske Veritas” that have excellent reputations. While there are other nationally recognized accrediting bodies that have standards commensurate with the joint commission, the current language of the Public Health Act does not allow the DOH to recognize these accreditations. DOH notes that it will benefit the stroke certification program to have the option of accepting national accreditations other than the joint commission, as long as the accrediting bodies meet accepted national and DOH standards.

Additionally, the EMSB is already working with statewide emergency medical services agencies and hospitals in developing statewide protocols for the assessment, treatment, and transport of stroke patients. This language will formalize and further support this activity.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB 81 is consistent with the FY 2014-2016 Department of Health Strategic Plan, specifically Healthcare Result 2 – the improved quality, accessibility, and utilization of health care services.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DOH recommends that on page 1, Line 13, it should read “pre-hospital” rather than “pre-hospitalization”.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB 81 is not enacted, the joint commission would remain the only recognized national accreditation for hospitals seeking stroke certification.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Will this change reduce the burden of joint commission workload and streamlines accreditation process?

What problems reported were with the current process?

BD/aml