

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 23, *approved February 22, 2021*

Assembly, No. 5103

1 **AN ACT** concerning the provision of care for trauma patients and
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. Each emergency medical services provider in the State
8 shall, as a condition of licensure, certify that its standards,
9 practices, and protocols are in accordance with the “Guidelines for
10 Field Triage of Injured Patients, Recommendations of the National
11 Expert Panel on Field Triage, 2011; Centers for Disease Control
12 and Prevention, MMWR, January 13, 2012, Vol. 61, No. 1,” or such
13 successor guidance as may be promulgated by the federal Centers
14 for Disease Control and Prevention. Compliance with the
15 requirements of this section shall be verified during the annual
16 provider audit.

17 b. As used in this section, “emergency medical services
18 provider” means any association, organization, company,
19 department, agency, service, program, unit, or other entity that
20 provides pre-hospital emergency care to patients in New Jersey,
21 including, but not limited to, a basic life support ambulance service,
22 a mobile intensive care program or mobile intensive care unit, an air
23 medical service, or a volunteer or non-volunteer first aid, rescue and
24 ambulance squad.

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26 2. Each general acute care hospital licensed in the State
27 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall maintain
28 trauma patient transfer criteria and transfer agreements, which
29 criteria and agreements shall provide for the effective and efficient
30 transfer of patients requiring the services of a trauma center. The
31 Department of Health shall collect and post on its Internet website
32 each hospital’s transfer criteria and transfer agreements.

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34 3. The Commissioner of Health shall, pursuant to the
35 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
36 seq.), adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate
37 the provisions of this act.

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39 4. This act shall take effect the first day of the seventh month
40 next following the date of enactment, except that the Commissioner
41 of Health may take any anticipatory administrative action in
42 advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill revises the requirements for the provision of care to trauma patients.

Specifically, the bill requires each emergency medical services provider in the State, as a condition of licensure, to certify that its standards, practices, and protocols are in accordance with the “Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients, Recommendations of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage, 2011; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MMWR, January 13, 2012, Vol. 61, No. 1,” or successor guidance. Compliance with this requirement will be verified during the annual provider audit.

The bill defines “emergency medical services provider” to mean any association, organization, company, department, agency, service, program, unit, or other entity that provides pre-hospital emergency care to patients in New Jersey, including, but not limited to, a basic life support ambulance service, a mobile intensive care program or mobile intensive care unit, an air medical service, or a volunteer or non-volunteer first aid, rescue and ambulance squad.

Additionally, the bill requires each general acute care hospital in the State to maintain trauma patient transfer criteria and transfer agreements, which criteria and agreements are to provide for the effective and efficient transfer of patients requiring the services of a trauma center. The Department of Health will be required to collect and post on its Internet website each hospital’s transfer criteria and transfer agreements.

Revises requirements for provision of care to trauma patients.