

HOUSE BILL 368
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, relative to Centers for Stroke Care Excellence.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. (a) The commissioner of health shall designate at least one hospital in each grand division of the state as a center for stroke care excellence. The commissioner shall enter into a grant agreement with each center to develop and support a stroke care program to benefit the public consistent with the provisions of this act. The initial selection of centers shall designate the Regional Medical Center in Memphis in the western grand division, Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville in the middle grand division, and Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga in the eastern grand division as centers.

(b)(1) A center for stroke care excellence shall be hospital-based, be focused on performance and process improvement, use multidisciplinary teams for care, be knowledge-based, and be case-managed, and the program shall be patient-centered. The program of the center shall be comprehensive in its approach, utilizing neurology, cardiology, diagnostic services, rehabilitation, and community resources and service providers. The center should be an education site and have resources dedicated to its programs. The stroke program should be developed to become a model for other programs.

(2) A center's stroke program should be based on:

(A) Best current practice developed through research of medical literature and study of other centers, including operational plans;

(B) Best medical practice that is tailored to meet the patient population served at the center reflecting the cultural, psychosocial, economic and lifestyle characteristics;

(C) Clinical guidelines and protocols for standardized care;

(D) Benchmarks to monitor quality care practices;

(E) Performance improvement for better patient outcomes; and

(F) Increased ability for stroke research.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.