



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 84 – Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers – Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of Support with amendments for House Bill (HB) 84 – “Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin’s Law),” which requires hospitals and urgent care centers within the State of Maryland to implement a specific protocol establishing treatment for and early detection of sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock in patients. HB 84 mandates that hospitals and urgent care centers provide regular staff training to implement sepsis protocols appropriately.

The Department supports the critical health initiative of this bill which requires professional training for sepsis detection and treatment protocols for hospitals and urgent care centers. However, the Department respectfully submits clarifying amendments for special hospitals and urgent care centers to focus on early detection and transfer of a patient with sepsis or suspected sepsis to an appropriate level of care. The amendments will require special hospitals and urgent care centers to train staff to identify sepsis and transfer the individual to a hospital that can provide the appropriate treatment. The Maryland Department of Health believes this clarifying amendment will ensure that patients within a special hospital or urgent care center receive care at an appropriate level of care for treatment of sepsis.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at Sarah.Case-Herron@Maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 84

Amendment No. 1:

On page 1, in line 21, strike “AND” and insert a comma; in the same line after “TREATMENT” insert “, OR TRANSFER”.

Amendment No. 2:

On page 2, in line 2, after (I) insert “FOR A SPECIAL HOSPITAL OR URGENT CARE CENTER”; in line 3, strike “TREATMENT” and substitute “TRANSFER”; in the same line strike the “AND” after the semicolon and replace it with “OR”, and in line 4 after (II) insert “FOR A HOSPITAL INCLUDE COMPONENTS SPECIFIC TO THE IDENTIFICATION, CARE, AND TREATMENT OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN; AND”.

Amendment No. 3:

(III).

On page 2, in line 9, after (I) insert “FOR A SPECIAL HOSPITAL AND A URGENT CARE CENTER, A PROCESS FOR THE SCREENING AND EARLY RECOGNITION OF A PATIENT WITH SEPSIS, SEVERE SEPSIS, OR SEPTIC SHOCK, AND PROCEDURES TO TRANSFER THE PATIENT TO A HOSPITAL THAT CAN PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE; AND.”

(II) FOR A HOSPITAL:”

Amendment No. 4:

On page 2, in lines 11, 16, 19, 23, and 27, strike “(II)”, “(III)”, “(IV)”, “(V)”, and “(VI)”, respectively, and substitute “(1)”, “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, and “(5)” respectively.

Amendment No. 5:

On page 3, in line 11, strike “AND” and substitute a comma; in the same line after “TREATMENT” insert “, OR TRANSFER”; and in the same line after “OF” insert “A PATIENT WITH”.

