



Texas Department of State Health Services

Heart Attack and Stroke Data Collection Initiative

Project Overview

Purpose

Prior to the initiative, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) did not have access to statewide heart attack and stroke hospital data. The collection of comprehensive data will enable DSHS to conduct gap analyses, identify areas for improvement, and ultimately improve care and outcomes for patients.

Background

During the 83rd and 84th Regular Texas Legislative Sessions, lawmakers appropriated funds to DSHS to improve the collection of data on heart attack and stroke throughout Texas. This data is provided by many hospitals through their enrollment in national databases, including the Acute Coronary Treatment and Intervention Outcomes Network (ACTION) Registry-Get With The Guidelines[®] (GWTG), managed by the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association, and the Get With The Guidelines[®] (GWTG)-Stroke database. These databases allow hospitals to input patient data and monitor performance and quality measures.

Hospital Requirements

The DSHS Heart Disease and Stroke Program requests that hospitals sign the appropriate forms allowing DSHS to access data submitted to the GWTG databases. DSHS obtains the data directly from the vendors managing these databases, with enrolled hospitals making no additional data submissions to DSHS. Hospitals interested in participating only need to sign and submit the forms included in the participation packet provided by DSHS and provide their Mission: Lifeline letter identifier upon receipt of the Mission: Lifeline Texas Report.

If a hospital is not enrolled in the databases, we encourage them to enroll, in addition to providing approval for DSHS to access the data submitted moving forward. Although participation in the databases and the initiative is voluntary, hospitals must be enrolled in the databases in order to participate in the initiative.

Program Benefits

Hospitals that submit the completed forms and choose to participate in this initiative will receive the following benefits:

- a. A key role in the assessment of heart attack and stroke care in Texas. Assessing the systems of care allows for identification of gaps, improvement and prioritization of needs across the state, and eventual improvement of the care for these patients, within each hospital and across the state.
- b. An opportunity to attend the annual quality improvement conference hosted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Heart Disease and Stroke Program, which offers information on the most current science regarding heart attack and stroke and resources available for using data for quality improvement.
- c. A copy of DSHS reports addressing the current state of systems of care for stroke and heart attack. These reports will provide aggregate numbers and will not identify individual hospitals.
- d. A copy of the Mission: Lifeline Texas Report that will allow a comparison of your hospital to the rest of the participants in the state. This report, blinded and following a format similar to the Mission: Lifeline Regional Report, does not allow for hospitals to identify one another's data.
- e. If sufficient data is collected, each region will be able to compare its performance to other regions in the state.
- f. If your hospital is not already enrolled in a Mission: Lifeline System/Regional Report, you will have the opportunity to become a part of a regional report. If you are enrolled in the National Cardiovascular Disease Registry (NCDR) ACTION Registry-Get With The Guidelines (GWTG), participation in the Mission: Lifeline program is of no extra cost to your hospital. All reports will provide data in aggregate numbers and will not identify individual hospitals.

Data Collection and Sharing

All data accessed by DSHS is protected under HIPAA privacy and security laws and is not shared with external entities or organizations. DSHS reports only provide aggregate numbers and will not identify individual hospitals. The most recent DSHS reports can be downloaded at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/heart/Council-Projects.aspx>. The Mission: Lifeline Texas Report is blinded. Gap analysis findings are presented at the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council and Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke quarterly meetings that are open to the public, as well as online.

DSHS obtains the data that is being entered in the databases directly from the vendors who manage these databases. DSHS will not retrieve a hospital's data unless the hospital agrees to participate in the initiative and submits the forms included in the packet.

For additional questions or information on how to participate, please contact Roberto Rodriguez at 512-776-3646 or Roberto.Rodriguez@dshs.state.tx.us.