



## Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council State of Texas

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February 14, 2007

The Governor's Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) is pleased to present a report on the status of development of a statewide stroke emergency transport plan. In 2005, the Texas Legislature passed SB-330 relating to the creation of a stroke committee and the development of a statewide stroke emergency transport plan and stroke facility criteria. The Legislature found that a strong system for stroke survival is needed in the state's communities in order to treat stroke victims in a timely manner and to improve the overall treatment of stroke victims.

The first requirement of the legislation was for GETAC to, by January 1, 2006, "appoint a stroke committee to assist the advisory council in the development of a statewide stroke emergency transport plan and stroke facility criteria" The multi-disciplinary committee was appointed in November 2005 and had its first meeting in early in 2006 (see attached membership list).

Another requirement of the bill is for GETAC to develop a "statewide stroke emergency transport plan and stroke facility criteria." The Stroke Committee worked in multiple meetings to develop a draft of the plan and criteria (attached) and presented the draft to GETAC at a meeting in November 2006. The next step is for the plan and criteria to be reviewed and discussed by relevant GETAC committees. The committees will provide recommendations to GETAC, with GETAC ultimately approving a stroke emergency plan and stroke facility criteria. There is no mandated timeframe for the plan and criteria to be completed.

Finally, SB330 required GETAC to provide a report on the status of the development of the plan to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission. That is the purpose of this letter and attached draft plan.

A wide variety of stroke and emergency healthcare providers have participated in the development of this draft plan and criteria to date, including those who specialize in neurology; neuroradiology; neurosurgery; emergency medicine; and neuroscience nursing; as well as EMS personnel who specialize in out-of-hospital care. GETAC will continue to work with emergency health care system stakeholders to finalize a stroke emergency transport plan and stroke facility criteria for the state.

Thank you for your support of emergency health care systems in Texas. If I can answer any questions, or you would like to talk further about the draft stroke plan, please feel free to contact me at 512/972-7331.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed M. Racht".

Edward M. Racht, MD  
Chair, GETAC

Attachments