

March 10, 2024

Representative Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF2421 (Wolgamott) Thrombectomy-capable stroke centers designation

Dear Chair Liebling and committee members,

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing to express our support for HF2421, which would allow eligible hospitals to be designated as a thrombectomy-capable stroke center.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system with 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, and central and southern Minnesota. Our hospitals, clinics, and urgent care centers see over 7.5 million annual visits combined – and over 360,000 visits to our emergency departments. Allina Health is proud to offer advanced stroke care through Mercy Hospital, designated by the Joint Commission as a thrombectomy capable stroke (TSC) center. The Stroke Center at Mercy Hospital provides a comprehensive evidence-based approach to stroke care from diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation.

Allowing hospitals to be designated as thrombectomy-capable stroke centers ensures that patients can go directly to best-practice facilities that provide the highest standard of care. Without such designations, patients may be transported to a facility ill-equipped to provide advanced stroke treatment. This delay or disruption in care can put patients at risk and lead to worse outcomes overall. To that end, the Minnesota EMS Acute Stroke Routing tool recommends transporting patients to the closest endovascular capable stroke center, recognizing that thrombectomy-capable, comprehensive stroke centers can provide these services 24/7.

HF2421 would strengthen the continuum of care across our state and help ensure patients receive the appropriate care they need when they need it. Allina Health urges the committee to support this potentially life-saving legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Jay MacGregor, MD
Vice President of Medical Affairs
Mercy Hospital, part of Allina Health



Stroke Designation

HF 2421

SIXTH

Stroke is the sixth
leading cause of
death and one of the
leading causes of
disability in
Minnesota

CDC DEATH LEADING CAUSES

TIME IS BRAIN

Getting the right patient to the right facility
at the right time for the appropriate care
saves lives.

WHAT IS A THROMBECTOMY-CAPABLE STROKE CENTER DESIGNATION?

This certification is designed for hospitals providing endovascular procedures and post-procedural care. Thrombectomy Capable Designation is a level 2 stroke center of four hospital designation levels of care:

- Level 1 - Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Level 2 - Thrombectomy Capable Center
- Level 3 - Primary Stroke Center
- Level 4 - Acute Stroke Center



WHY ADD THROMBECTOMY CAPABLE DESIGNATION?

A new designation of Thrombectomy Capable Centers granted by the Joint Commission, in collaboration with the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, recognizes the latest evidence demonstrating the safety and efficacy of thrombectomy (a surgical procedure used to remove blood clots) in the treatment of large vessel acute ischemic stroke. Integrating thrombectomy-capable centers within MN stroke system of care provides better outcomes for stroke patients and increases their chances of returning home to loved ones to resume their daily activities.

