

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 280—ASSEMBLYMEN OCEGUERA, ANDERSON, MASTROLUCA, BROOKS, CONKLIN; BENITEZ-THOMPSON, DONDERO LOOP, FLORES, FRIERSON, HORNE, KIRKPATRICK, MUNFORD, NEAL AND PIERCE

MARCH 15, 2011

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR MANENDO

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Requires the adoption of patient safety checklists at certain medical facilities. (BDR 40-517)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public health; requiring certain medical facilities to establish patient safety checklists; revising the requirements of the patient safety plans of certain medical facilities to include the patient safety checklists; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law requires certain medical facilities to adopt patient safety plans and establish patient safety committees to oversee matters relating to the health and safety of patients at the facilities. (NRS 439.865, 439.875) **Sections 1 and 5** of this bill require the patient safety committee of such a medical facility to adopt certain patient safety checklists to improve the health outcomes of patients in the medical facility. **Sections 1 and 5** also require the patient safety committee to review those checklists at least annually and revise the checklists as necessary. **Section 1** also provides for annual reporting by the patient safety committees to the Legislative Committee on Health Care. **Section 4** of this bill requires the patient safety checklists to be included in the patient safety plan established for the medical facility.

**Section 7** of this bill provides that existing administrative sanctions which may be imposed against a medical facility that fails to adopt a patient safety plan or establish a patient safety committee may be imposed against a medical facility for a violation of **section 1**.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The patient safety committee established pursuant to NRS 439.875 by a medical facility shall adopt patient safety checklists for use by providers of health care who provide treatment to patients at the medical facility. The patient safety checklists must be designed to ensure that the providers of health care follow a recognized protocol to improve the health outcomes of patients at the medical facility and must include, without limitation:*

*(a) A checklist for appropriately identifying a patient and ensuring that the patient is being provided the treatment ordered by a provider of health care, including, without limitation, requiring providers of health care positively to identify the patient upon each interaction;*

*(b) A checklist for ensuring that each provider of health care adheres to the universal precautions protocol, including, without limitation, requiring a provider of health care to wash his or her hands before and after every interaction with a patient and after coming into direct contact with a surface or object which may be contaminated; and*

*(c) Any other checklists which may be appropriate for the type of treatment provided at the medical facility or which may be required by the State Board of Health.*

*2. The patient safety committee shall:*

*(a) At least annually, review the patient safety checklists adopted pursuant to this section and consider any additional patient safety checklists that may be appropriate for adoption for use at the medical facility.*

*(b) Revise a patient safety checklist adopted pursuant to this section as necessary to ensure that the checklist reflects the most current standards in patient safety protocols.*

*(c) On or before July 1 of each year, submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Health Care. The report must include information regarding the development, revision and usage of the patient safety checklists and a summary of the annual review conducted pursuant to paragraph (a).*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 439.800 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.800 As used in NRS 439.800 to 439.890, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 439.802 to 439.830, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.



**Sec. 3.** NRS 439.860 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.860 Any report, document and any other information compiled or disseminated pursuant to the provisions of NRS 439.800 to 439.890, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* is not admissible in evidence in any administrative or legal proceeding conducted in this State.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 439.865 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.865 1. Each medical facility that is located within this state shall develop, in consultation with the providers of health care who provide treatment to patients at the medical facility, an internal patient safety plan to improve the health and safety of patients who are treated at that medical facility. *The patient safety plan must include, without limitation, the patient safety checklists most recently adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act.*

2. A medical facility shall submit its patient safety plan to the governing board of the medical facility for approval in accordance with the requirements of this section.

3. After a medical facility's patient safety plan is approved, the medical facility shall notify all providers of health care who provide treatment to patients at the medical facility of the existence of the plan and of the requirements of the plan. A medical facility shall require compliance with its patient safety plan.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 439.875 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.875 1. A medical facility shall establish a patient safety committee.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3:

(a) A patient safety committee established pursuant to subsection 1 must be composed of:

(1) The patient safety officer of the medical facility.

(2) At least three providers of health care who treat patients at the medical facility, including, without limitation, at least one member of the medical, nursing and pharmaceutical staff of the medical facility.

(3) One member of the executive or governing body of the medical facility.

(b) A patient safety committee shall meet at least once each month.

3. The Administrator shall adopt regulations prescribing the composition and frequency of meetings of patient safety committees at medical facilities having fewer than 25 employees and contractors.

4. A patient safety committee shall:

(a) Receive reports from the patient safety officer pursuant to NRS 439.870.



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(b) Evaluate actions of the patient safety officer in connection with all reports of sentinel events alleged to have occurred at the medical facility.

(c) Review and evaluate the quality of measures carried out by the medical facility to improve the safety of patients who receive treatment at the medical facility.

(d) Make recommendations to the executive or governing body of the medical facility to reduce the number and severity of sentinel events that occur at the medical facility.

(e) At least once each calendar quarter, report to the executive or governing body of the medical facility regarding:

(1) The number of sentinel events that occurred at the medical facility during the preceding calendar quarter; and

(2) Any recommendations to reduce the number and severity of sentinel events that occur at the medical facility.

*(f) Adopt patient safety checklists as required by section 1 of this act, review the checklists annually and revise the checklists as the patient safety committee determines necessary.*

5. The proceedings and records of a patient safety committee are subject to the same privilege and protection from discovery as the proceedings and records described in NRS 49.265.

**Sec. 6.** NRS 439.880 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.880 No person is subject to any criminal penalty or civil liability for libel, slander or any similar cause of action in tort if the person, without malice:

1. Reports a sentinel event to a governmental entity with jurisdiction or another appropriate authority;

2. Notifies a governmental entity with jurisdiction or another appropriate authority of a sentinel event;

3. Transmits information regarding a sentinel event to a governmental entity with jurisdiction or another appropriate authority;

4. Compiles, prepares or disseminates information regarding a sentinel event to a governmental entity with jurisdiction or another appropriate authority; or

5. Performs any other act authorized pursuant to NRS 439.800 to 439.890, inclusive, ~~§~~, *and section 1 of this act.*

**Sec. 7.** NRS 439.885 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439.885 1. If a medical facility:

(a) Commits a violation of any provision of NRS 439.800 to 439.890, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, or for any violation for which an administrative sanction pursuant to NRS 449.163 would otherwise be applicable; and

(b) Of its own volition, reports the violation to the Administrator,



1 ↪ such a violation must not be used as the basis for imposing an  
2 administrative sanction pursuant to NRS 449.163.

3 2. If a medical facility commits a violation of any provision of  
4 NRS 439.800 to 439.890, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* and  
5 does not, of its own volition, report the violation to the  
6 Administrator, the Health Division may, in accordance with the  
7 provisions of subsection 3, impose an administrative sanction:

8 (a) For failure to report a sentinel event, in an amount not to  
9 exceed \$100 per day for each day after the date on which the  
10 sentinel event was required to be reported pursuant to NRS 439.835;

11 (b) For failure to adopt and implement a patient safety plan  
12 pursuant to NRS 439.865, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for  
13 each month in which a patient safety plan was not in effect; and

14 (c) For failure to establish a patient safety committee or failure  
15 of such a committee to meet pursuant to the requirements of NRS  
16 439.875, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for each violation of  
17 that section.

18 3. Before the Health Division imposes an administrative  
19 sanction pursuant to subsection 2, the Health Division shall provide  
20 the medical facility with reasonable notice. The notice must contain  
21 the legal authority, jurisdiction and reasons for the action to be  
22 taken. If a medical facility wants to contest the action, the facility  
23 may file an appeal pursuant to the regulations of the State Board of  
24 Health adopted pursuant to NRS 449.165 and 449.170. Upon  
25 receiving notice of an appeal, the Health Division shall hold a  
26 hearing in accordance with those regulations.

27 4. An administrative sanction collected pursuant to this section  
28 must be accounted for separately and used by the Health Division to  
29 provide training and education to employees of the Health Division,  
30 employees of medical facilities and members of the general public  
31 regarding issues relating to the provision of quality and safe health  
32 care.

33 **Sec. 8.** NRS 439.890 is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 439.890 The State Board of Health shall adopt such regulations  
35 as the Board determines to be necessary or advisable to carry out the  
36 provisions of NRS 439.800 to 439.890, inclusive ~~[ ]~~, *and section 1*  
37 *of this act.*

38 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

