



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 21-008

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STANDARDIZED STROKE TRIAGE
ASSESSMENT TOOL, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 27:5F-27.1**

WHEREAS, in January 2020, legislation was enacted, namely N.J.S.A. 27:5F-27.1, that established various requirements for revising and improving the Statewide system of stroke care; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this legislation, specifically N.J.S.A. 27:5F-27.1(a), the Commissioner of the Department of Health is required to adopt, no later than June 1 of each year, “a nationally recognized standardized stroke triage assessment tool to be used by emergency medical services providers and protocols for the treatment and timely transport of acute stroke patients to the hospital with the most appropriate level of stroke care capability for the effective and efficient treatment of the patient’s condition;” and

WHEREAS, consistent with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 27:5F-27.1(a), the Department’s Office of Emergency Medical Services, in consultation with the Stroke Advisory Panel, provided me, as the Commissioner of the Department of Health, with a recommendation that the Department adopt the Rapid Arterial Occlusion Evaluation (RACE) Scale for Stroke as the standardized stroke triage assessment tool and guidelines for New Jersey emergency medical services (EMS) providers; and

WHEREAS, the RACE Scale for Stroke is a nationally recognized stroke triage assessment tool; and

WHEREAS, after thoroughly and thoughtfully reviewing and considering the RACE Scale for Stroke tool and accompanying guidelines, I find that they are appropriate and effective for stroke triage assessment in the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICILLI, Commissioner of the Department of Health, **ORDER** the following:

1. The RACE Scale for Stroke tool and guidelines, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, are hereby adopted as the standardized stroke triage assessment tool and guidelines for New Jersey EMS providers.

2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 27:5F-27.1(b), each EMS provider in the State shall implement the RACE Scale for Stroke tool and guidelines.

This Directive shall take effect immediately. The provisions of this Directive shall remain in force and effect until otherwise modified, supplemented and/or rescinded.



Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner

July 20, 2021

Date