Guidance for  
Change of Legal Owner of a Hospital Facility (CHOW)  
And/Or  
Change in Physical Location of a Hospital Facility  
And/Or  
Impact to Stroke Facility Designation  

I. Relevant Rules  
Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Rule §133.21 Hospital Licensing - General  
(c) Scope of hospital license.  
(1) A hospital license is issued for the premises and person or governmental unit named in the application.  

Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Rule §133.24 Hospital Licensing - Change of Ownership  
(a) Change of ownership defined. A change of ownership of a hospital occurs when there is a change in the person legally responsible for the operation of the hospital, whether by lease or by ownership.  

Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Rule §157.133 Emergency Medical Care - Requirements for Stroke Facility Designation  
(a) The Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Trauma Systems Coordination (office) shall recommend to the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services (commissioner) the designation of an applicant/healthcare facility (facility) as a stroke facility at the level(s) for each location of a facility the office deems appropriate.  
(b) A healthcare facility is defined under these rules as a single location where inpatients receive hospital services or each location if there are multiple buildings where inpatients receive hospital services and are covered under a single hospital license.  

II. Explanation  
A hospital facility license is issued: 1) to the legal owner, whose name is reflected on the license application submitted; and 2) for the physical location of the facility, as reflected on the license application submitted.  

New Hospital Facility License Application Required  

1. Change of Legal Owner: If after issuance of a hospital facility license, the name reflected on the license application as the legal owner changes in any way, a change of ownership has occurred and the previously issued license is no longer valid. The new legal owner must submit a new license application to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for issuance of a new license.
2. **Change of Physical Location**: If after issuance of the hospital facility license, the physical location of the hospital facility reflected on the license application changes, a change in location has occurred and the previously issued license is no longer valid. A new license application reflecting this new physical location for the hospital facility must be submitted to the DSHS for issuance of a new license.

**New Stroke Facility Designation Required**

Upon a Change of Legal Owner or Change of Physical Location of a hospital facility, the previously issued license is no longer valid and any stroke facility designation associated with this license is no longer recognized. If a hospital facility wishes to seek stroke facility designation, it must comply with the provisions of Title 25 of section 157.133 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), titled “Requirements for Stroke Facility Designation.”