
HOUSE BILL 1015

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Morrell, Skinner, Hankins, Simpson,
Schindler and Chase

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Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the reporting of infections acquired in health
2 care facilities; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a
3 new section to chapter 42.17 RCW; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The definitions in this section apply throughout this section
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

9 (a) "Hospital" means a health care facility licensed under chapter
10 70.41 RCW.

11 (b) "Hospital-acquired infection" means a localized or systemic
12 condition that results from adverse reaction to the presence of an
13 infectious agent or its toxins and that was not present or incubating
14 at the time of admission to the hospital.

15 (2) The department shall:

16 (a) Adopt guidelines and rules for the collection, reporting,
17 analysis, and release of information related to hospital-acquired
18 infection rates at hospitals. In adopting these guidelines and rules,
19 the department shall consider the recommendations of the advisory

1 committee established in (c) of this subsection as well as the
2 definitions, methodologies, and practices of the United States centers
3 for disease control related to hospital-acquired infections. The
4 guidelines and rules shall consider the rates of hospital-acquired
5 infections in the following categories:

6 (i) Surgical site infections;

7 (ii) Ventilator-associated pneumonia;

8 (iii) Central line-related bloodstream infections;

9 (iv) Urinary tract infections;

10 (v) Clostridium difficile infections; and

11 (vi) Other procedures or categories that the department determines
12 must be considered to assure public health and safety;

13 (b) Publish an annual report that compares the hospital-acquired
14 infection rates at each individual hospital in the state. Comparisons
15 among hospitals shall be adjusted to consider patient mix and other
16 relevant risk factors and control for provider peer groups, when
17 appropriate. The annual report shall disclose data in a format so that
18 no health information about any individual patient is released. The
19 department may respond to requests for data and other information, at
20 the requestor's expense, for special studies and analysis consistent
21 with requirements for confidentiality of patient records;

22 (c) Establish an advisory committee to make recommendations to the
23 department in the development of guidelines and rules for the
24 collection, reporting, analysis, and release of information related to
25 hospital-acquired infections. The advisory committee shall consist of
26 representatives of public hospitals, private hospitals, physicians,
27 direct-care nurses, epidemiologists, health insurers, health
28 maintenance organizations, quality improvement committees, labor
29 unions, and consumers of health care services. In developing its
30 recommendations, the department shall consider the definitions,
31 methodologies, and practices of the United States centers for disease
32 control related to hospital-acquired infections.

33 (3) Each hospital shall:

34 (a) Collect information regarding hospital-acquired infection rates
35 for the specific clinical procedures and categories identified by the
36 department; and

37 (b) Prepare a report every three months and submit the reports to

1 the department. The collection and reporting of information shall be
2 performed in accordance with the guidelines and rules of the
3 department.

4 (4) Neither the reports submitted by hospitals to the department
5 under subsection (3) of this section, nor any of the data contained in
6 them are subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence in
7 a civil proceeding.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The reports submitted by hospitals to the department of health
11 under section 1(3) of this act and the data contained in them are
12 exempt from disclosure under this chapter.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect August 1, 2005.

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