
HOUSE BILL 2475

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Morrell, and Green

Prefiled 12/20/07. Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the practice of health care assistants; amending
2 RCW 18.135.010, 18.135.020, and 18.135.065; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 18.135 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.135.010 and 1984 c 281 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 It is in the public interest that limited authority to: (1)
8 Administer skin tests and subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular, and
9 intravenous injections ((and to)); (2) perform minor invasive
10 procedures to withdraw blood in this state; and (3) administer vaccines
11 and immunizations in accordance with section 4 of this act be granted
12 to health care assistants who are not so authorized under existing
13 licensing statutes, subject to such regulations as will ~~((assure))~~
14 ensure the protection of the health and safety of the patient.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.135.020 and 2001 c 22 s 2 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 ~~((As used in this chapter*))~~ The definitions in this section apply
18 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (1) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

2 (2) "Health care assistant" means an unlicensed person who assists
3 a licensed health care practitioner in providing health care to
4 patients pursuant to this chapter. However persons trained by a
5 federally approved end-stage renal disease facility who perform end-
6 stage renal dialysis in the home setting are exempt from certification
7 under this chapter.

8 (3) "Health care practitioner" means:

9 (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW;

10 (b) An osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed under chapter
11 18.57 RCW; or

12 (c) Acting within the scope of their respective licensure, a
13 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, a
14 registered nurse or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed
15 under chapter 18.79 RCW, ~~((or))~~ a naturopath licensed under chapter
16 18.36A RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or
17 an osteopathic physician's assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW.

18 (4) "Supervision" means supervision of procedures permitted
19 pursuant to this chapter by a health care practitioner who is
20 physically present and is immediately available in the facility during
21 the administration of injections, vaccines, or immunizations as defined
22 in this chapter, but need not be present during procedures to withdraw
23 blood.

24 (5) "Health care facility" means any hospital, hospice care center,
25 licensed or certified health care facility, health maintenance
26 organization regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW, federally qualified
27 health maintenance organization, renal dialysis center or facility
28 federally approved under 42 C.F.R. 405.2100, blood bank federally
29 licensed under 21 C.F.R. 607, or clinical laboratory certified under 20
30 C.F.R. 405.1301-16.

31 (6) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a licensed
32 health care practitioner to a health care assistant to perform the
33 functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope of
34 practice of the delegator and which are not within the scope of
35 practice of the delegatee.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.135.065 and 1991 c 3 s 276 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) Each delegator, as defined under RCW 18.135.020(6), shall
2 maintain a list of: (a) Specific medications, diagnostic agents, and
3 the route of administration of each that he or she has authorized for
4 injection; and (b) the vaccines and immunizations that he or she has
5 authorized for administration. Both the delegator and delegatee shall
6 sign the above list, indicating the date of each signature. The signed
7 list shall be forwarded to the secretary of the department of health
8 and shall be available for review.

9 (2) Delegates are prohibited from administering any controlled
10 substance as defined in RCW 69.50.101(d), any experimental drug, and
11 any cancer chemotherapy agent unless a delegator is physically present
12 in the immediate area where the drug is administered.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.135 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The administration of vaccines and immunizations by a health care
16 assistant is restricted to the following types of vaccines and
17 immunizations:

18 (1) A vaccine or immunization that is administered by injection and
19 that has been approved by the United States food and drug
20 administration; or

21 (2) A vaccine or immunization that is administered orally or
22 topically, including nasal administration, and that has been
23 recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices.

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