

SHB 1529 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

ADOPTED 04/14/2009

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The home health program shall require registered nurse  
6 oversight and intervention, as appropriate. In-person contact between  
7 a home health care registered nurse and a patient is not required under  
8 the state's medical assistance program for home health services that  
9 are: (a) Delivered with the assistance of telemedicine and (b)  
10 otherwise eligible for reimbursement as a medically necessary skilled  
11 home health nursing visit under the program.

12 (2) The department in consultation with home health care service  
13 providers shall develop reimbursement rules and, in rule, define the  
14 requirements that must be met for a reimbursable skilled nursing visit  
15 when services are rendered without a face-to-face visit and are  
16 assisted by telemedicine.

17 (3)(a) The department shall establish the reimbursement rate for  
18 skilled home health nursing services delivered with the assistance of  
19 telemedicine that meet the requirements of a reimbursable visit as  
20 defined by the department.

21 (b) Reimbursement is not provided for purchase or lease of  
22 telemedicine equipment.

23 (4) Any home health agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW and  
24 eligible for reimbursement under the medical programs authorized under  
25 this chapter may be reimbursed for services under this section if the  
26 service meets the requirements for a reimbursable skilled nursing visit  
27 as defined by the department.

28 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the scope  
29 of practice of any home health care services provider or authorizes the

1 delivery of home health care services in a setting or manner not  
2 otherwise authorized by law.

3 (6) The use of telemedicine is not intended to replace registered  
4 nurse health care visit when necessary.

5 (7) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" means the use  
6 of telemonitoring to enhance the delivery of certain home health  
7 medical services through:

8 (a) The provision of certain education related to health care  
9 services using audio, video, or data communication instead of a face-  
10 to-face visit; or

11 (b) The collection of clinical data and the transmission of such  
12 data between a patient at a distant location and the home health  
13 provider through electronic processing technologies. Objective  
14 clinical data that may be transmitted includes, but is not limited to,  
15 weight, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, blood glucose, and pulse  
16 oximetry."

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17 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "telemedicine;" strike the  
18 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new section to chapter  
19 74.09 RCW."

EFFECT: Clarifies the necessity for registered nurse oversight  
when appropriate.

**--- END ---**