
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1529

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Sequist, Hinkle, Morrell, Bailey, Moeller, Clibborn, Green, and Cody)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to the delivery of home health care services
2 through telemedicine; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

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

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

1 telemedicine that meet the requirements of a reimbursable visit as
2 defined by the department.

3 (b) Reimbursement is not provided for purchase or lease of
4 telemedicine equipment.

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

10 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the scope
11 of practice of any home health care services provider or authorizes the
12 delivery of home health care services in a setting or manner not
13 otherwise authorized by law.

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

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

20 (b) The collection of clinical data and the transmission of such
21 data between a patient at a distant location and the home health
22 provider through electronic processing technologies. Objective
23 clinical data that may be transmitted includes, but is not limited to,
24 weight, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, blood glucose, and pulse
25 oximetry.

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