
HOUSE BILL 2009

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representative Cody

Read first time 03/04/11. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to medical assistants; adding a new chapter to
2 Title 18 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that medical
5 assistants are health professionals specifically trained to work in
6 ambulatory settings, such as physicians' offices, clinics, and group
7 practices. These multiskilled personnel are trained to perform
8 administrative and clinical procedures. Physicians value this unique
9 versatility more and more because patients ask them to contain costs
10 and manage human resources efficiently. The demand for medical
11 assistants is expanding rapidly.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
13 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a licensed
15 health care practitioner to a medical assistant to perform the
16 functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope of
17 practice.

18 (2) "Health care practitioner" means:

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

2 (b) An osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed under chapter
3 18.57 RCW; or

4 (c) Acting within the scope of their respective licensure, a
5 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, a
6 registered nurse or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed
7 under chapter 18.79 RCW, a naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A
8 RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or an
9 osteopathic physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW.

10 (3) "Medical assistant" means an unlicensed person who assists a
11 licensed health care practitioner in all aspects of outpatient
12 ambulatory health care pursuant to this chapter. A medical assistant
13 assists with patient care, executes administrative and clinical
14 procedures, and performs managerial functions.

15 (4) "Supervision" means supervision of procedures permitted
16 pursuant to this chapter by a health care practitioner who is
17 physically present and is immediately available in the facility, but
18 need not be present during procedures to withdraw blood.

19 (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The secretary shall adopt rules that
21 establish the minimum requirements necessary for a health care
22 practitioner, clinic, or group practice to certify a medical assistant
23 qualified to perform the duties authorized by this chapter.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Any health care practitioner, clinic, or
25 group practice may certify a medical assistant to perform the functions
26 authorized in this chapter under the supervision of a health care
27 practitioner.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A medical assistant under the supervision of
29 a health care practitioner may perform the following duties:

30 (1) Performing clinical procedures to include:

31 (a) Performing aseptic procedures;

32 (b) Preparing of and assisting in sterile procedures;

33 (c) Taking vital signs;

34 (d) Preparing patients for examination;

- 1 (e) Venous and capillary blood withdrawal and nonintravenous
- 2 injection;
- 3 (f) Observing and reporting patients signs or symptoms;
- 4 (2) Administering basic first aid;
- 5 (3) Assisting with patient examinations or treatment;
- 6 (4) Operating office medical equipment;
- 7 (5) Collecting routine laboratory specimens;
- 8 (6) Administering medications by unit, single, or calculated dosage
- 9 including vaccines; and
- 10 (7) Performing basic laboratory procedures.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** No person may practice as a medical
12 assistant unless that person is registered with the department of
13 health.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) In addition to any other authority
15 provided by law, the secretary may:

16 (a) Adopt rules, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to
17 implement this chapter;

18 (b) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
19 chapter;

20 (c) Establish administrative procedures, administrative
21 requirements, and fees in accordance with RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.
22 All fees collected under this section must be credited to the health
23 professions account as required under RCW 43.70.320;

24 (d) Issue a registration to any applicant who has met the
25 requirements for registration and deny a registration to applicants who
26 do not meet the minimum qualifications for registration. However,
27 denial of a registration based on unprofessional conduct or impaired
28 practice is governed by the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130
29 RCW;

30 (e) Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as
31 needed to implement and administer this chapter;

32 (f) Maintain the official department of health record of all
33 applicants and registrants; and

34 (g) Establish requirements and procedures for an inactive
35 registration.

1 (2) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs
2 unregistered practice, the issuance and denial of a registration, and
3 the discipline of persons registered under this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The secretary shall adopt rules to implement
5 this act by July 1, 2012.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act constitute
7 a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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