

ESSB 5460 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Health Care & Wellness

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 4/13/2015

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature finds that high quality, safe, and
6 compassionate health care services for patients of Washington state
7 must be available at all times. The legislature further finds that
8 there is a need for patients being released from hospital emergency
9 departments to maintain access to emergency medications when
10 community or hospital pharmacy services are not available. It is the
11 intent of the legislature to accomplish this objective by allowing
12 practitioners with prescriptive authority to prescribe limited
13 amounts of prepackaged emergency medications to patients being
14 discharged from hospital emergency departments when access to
15 community or outpatient hospital pharmacy services is not otherwise
16 available.

17 (2) A hospital may allow a practitioner to prescribe prepackaged
18 emergency medications and allow a practitioner or a registered nurse
19 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW to distribute prepackaged emergency
20 medications to patients being discharged from a hospital emergency
21 department during times when community or outpatient hospital
22 pharmacy services are not available within fifteen miles by road or
23 when, in the judgment of the practitioner and consistent with
24 hospital policies and procedures, a patient has no reasonable ability
25 to reach the local community or outpatient pharmacy. A hospital may
26 only allow this practice if: The director of the hospital pharmacy,
27 in collaboration with appropriate hospital medical staff, develops
28 policies and procedures regarding the following:

29 (a) Development of a list, preapproved by the pharmacy director,
30 of the types of emergency medications to be prepackaged and
31 distributed;

1 (b) Assurances that emergency medications to be prepackaged
2 pursuant to this section are prepared by a pharmacist or under the
3 supervision of a pharmacist licensed under chapter 18.64 RCW;

4 (c) Development of specific criteria under which emergency
5 prepackaged medications may be prescribed and distributed consistent
6 with the limitations of this section;

7 (d) Assurances that any practitioner authorized to prescribe
8 prepackaged emergency medication or any nurse authorized to
9 distribute prepackaged emergency medication is trained on the types
10 of medications available and the circumstances under which they may
11 be distributed;

12 (e) Procedures to require practitioners intending to prescribe
13 prepackaged emergency medications pursuant to this section to
14 maintain a valid prescription either in writing or electronically in
15 the patient's records prior to a medication being distributed to a
16 patient;

17 (f) Establishment of a limit of no more than a forty-eight hour
18 supply of emergency medication as the maximum to be dispensed to a
19 patient, except when community or hospital pharmacy services will not
20 be available within forty-eight hours. In no case may the policy
21 allow a supply exceeding ninety-six hours be dispensed;

22 (g) Assurances that prepackaged emergency medications will be
23 kept in a secure location in or near the emergency department in such
24 a manner as to preclude the necessity for entry into the pharmacy;
25 and

26 (h) Assurances that nurses or practitioners will distribute
27 prepackaged emergency medications to patients only after a
28 practitioner has counseled the patient on the medication.

29 (3) The delivery of a single dose of medication for immediate
30 administration to the patient is not subject to the requirements of
31 this section.

32 (4) For purposes of this section:

33 (a) "Emergency medication" means any medication commonly
34 prescribed to emergency room patients, including those drugs,
35 substances or immediate precursors listed in schedules II through V
36 of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter 69.50 RCW, as now
37 or hereafter amended.

38 (b) "Distribute" means the delivery of a drug or device other
39 than by administering or dispensing.

1 (c) "Practitioner" means any person duly authorized by law or
2 rule in the state of Washington to prescribe drugs as defined in RCW
3 18.64.011(24).

4 (d) "Nurse" means a registered nurse as defined in RCW 18.79.020.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
7 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
8 effect immediately."

9 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Allows prepackaged emergency medications to be
distributed to a patient when it is consistent with hospital policy
and a practitioner with prescriptive authority has determined that a
patient has no reasonable ability to reach the local community or
outpatient pharmacy (in addition to the 15 mile authority currently
in the bill).

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