
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5460

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Health Care (originally sponsored by Senators Parlette, Cleveland, Rivers, Keiser, Angel, Chase, and Bailey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to prepackaged emergency medications in
2 hospital emergency departments when community or hospital pharmacy
3 services are not available; adding a new section to chapter 70.41
4 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41
7 RCW to read as follows:

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

20 (2) A hospital may allow a practitioner to prescribe prepackaged
21 emergency medications and allow a practitioner or a registered nurse

1 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW to distribute prepackaged emergency
2 medications to patients being discharged from a hospital emergency
3 department during times when community or outpatient hospital
4 pharmacy services are not available within fifteen miles by road. A
5 hospital may only allow this practice if: The director of the
6 hospital pharmacy, in collaboration with appropriate hospital medical
7 staff, develops policies and procedures regarding the following:

8 (a) Development of a list, preapproved by the pharmacy director,
9 of the types of emergency medications to be prepackaged and
10 distributed;

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

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

17 (d) Assurances that any practitioner authorized to prescribe
18 prepackaged emergency medication or any nurse authorized to
19 distribute prepackaged emergency medication is trained on the types
20 of medications available and the circumstances under which they may
21 be distributed;

22 (e) Procedures to require practitioners intending to prescribe
23 prepackaged emergency medications pursuant to this section to
24 maintain a valid prescription either in writing or electronically in
25 the patient's records prior to a medication being distributed to a
26 patient;

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

32 (g) Assurances that prepackaged emergency medications will be
33 kept in a secure location in or near the emergency department in such
34 a manner as to preclude the necessity for entry into the pharmacy;
35 and

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

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

4 (4) For purposes of this section:

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

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

12 (c) "Practitioner" means any person duly authorized by law or
13 rule in the state of Washington to prescribe drugs as defined in RCW
14 18.64.011(24).

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

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
18 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
19 effect immediately.

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