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**SENATE BILL 6447**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lias, Kuderer, Rivers, Dhingra, Randall, Wilson, C., and Saldaña

Read first time 01/16/20. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a coprescription of opioid overdose  
2 reversal medication; adding a new section to chapter 69.41 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington has  
6 made great strides in recent years to address the opioid crisis in  
7 our state. However, there continue to be too many deaths from opioid  
8 overdose in communities across the state. The use of opioid  
9 antagonists such as naloxone reverses the effects of opioids and can  
10 be life-saving when an opioid overdose occurs.

11 The legislature intends to standardize naloxone coprescription  
12 practices to ensure consistency between the prescribing professions  
13 and alignment with nationally articulated standards of care.

14 The legislature intends that these changes will increase the  
15 number of opioid prescribed patients who have access to a life-saving  
16 overdose intervention in the event of an emergency with the goal of  
17 reducing the likelihood that an opioid overdose event for a given  
18 patient may lead to fatality or long-term adverse health outcomes and  
19 the likelihood that patients and their families face long-term  
20 financial and emotional burden due to an opioid overdose event.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 69.41  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1)    A practitioner shall provide a current prescription or  
4    confirm the patient has a current prescription for an opioid overdose  
5    reversal medication when the practitioner has prescribed the patient  
6    an opioid at or in excess of a fifty morphine milligram equivalent.

7        (2)    The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
8    section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9        (a)    "Morphine milligram equivalent" means the conversion factor  
10   used to calculate the strength of an opioid using morphine dosage as  
11   the comparative unit of measure.

12       (b)    "Opioid overdose reversal medication" means any drug used to  
13   reverse an opioid overdose that binds to opioid receptors and blocks  
14   or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors.

15       (c)    "Practitioner" has the meaning provided in RCW 69.50.101.

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