

**SHB 1073** - H AMD 12

By Representative Riccelli

ADOPTED 02/15/2023

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

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4 "Sec. 1. RCW 18.360.010 and 2021 c 44 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Administer" means the retrieval of medication, and its  
9 application to a patient, as authorized in RCW 18.360.050.

10 (2) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a  
11 licensed health care practitioner to a medical assistant to perform  
12 the functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope  
13 of practice of the health care provider and the training and  
14 experience of the medical assistant.

15 (3) "Department" means the department of health.

16 (4) "Forensic phlebotomist" means a police officer, law  
17 enforcement officer, or employee of a correctional facility or  
18 detention facility, who is certified under this chapter and meets  
19 any additional training and proficiency standards of his or her  
20 employer to collect a venous blood sample for forensic testing  
21 pursuant to a search warrant, a waiver of the warrant requirement,  
22 or exigent circumstances.

23 (5) "Health care practitioner" means:

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

25 (b) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter  
26 18.57 RCW; or

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1 (c) Acting within the scope of their respective licensure, a  
2 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, a  
3 registered nurse or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed  
4 under chapter 18.79 RCW, a naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A  
5 RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or an  
6 optometrist licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW.

7 (6) "Medical assistant-certified" means a person certified under  
8 RCW 18.360.040 who assists a health care practitioner with patient  
9 care, executes administrative and clinical procedures, and performs  
10 functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of the  
11 health care practitioner.

12 (7) "Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician" means a person  
13 certified under RCW 18.360.040 who performs hemodialysis and other  
14 functions pursuant to RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of a  
15 health care practitioner.

16 (8) "Medical assistant-phlebotomist" means a person certified  
17 under RCW 18.360.040 who performs capillary, venous, and arterial  
18 invasive procedures for blood withdrawal and other functions  
19 pursuant to RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of a health care  
20 practitioner.

21 (9) "Medical assistant-registered" means a person registered  
22 under RCW 18.360.040 who, pursuant to an endorsement by a health  
23 care practitioner, clinic, or group practice, assists a health care  
24 practitioner with patient care, executes administrative and clinical  
25 procedures, and performs functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050  
26 under the supervision of the health care practitioner.

27 (10) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

28 (11)(a) "Supervision" means supervision of procedures permitted  
29 pursuant to this chapter by a health care practitioner who is  
30 physically present and is immediately available in the facility,  
31 except as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection.

32 (b) The health care practitioner does not need to be present  
33 during procedures to withdraw blood, administer vaccines, or obtain  
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1 specimens for or perform diagnostic testing, but must be immediately  
2 available.

3 (c) During a telemedicine visit, supervision over a medical  
4 assistant assisting a health care practitioner with the telemedicine  
5 visit may be provided through interactive audio and video  
6 telemedicine technology.

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8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.360.040 and 2017 c 336 s 17 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1)(a) The secretary shall issue a certification as a medical  
11 assistant-certified to any person who has satisfactorily completed a  
12 medical assistant training program approved by the secretary, passed  
13 an examination approved by the secretary, and met any additional  
14 qualifications established under RCW 18.360.030.

15 (b) The secretary shall issue an interim certification to any  
16 person who has met all of the qualifications in (a) of this  
17 subsection, except for the passage of the examination. A person  
18 holding an interim permit possesses the full scope of practice of a  
19 medical assistant-certified. The interim permit expires upon passage  
20 of the examination and issuance of a certification, or after one  
21 year, whichever occurs first, and may not be renewed.

22 (2)(a) The secretary shall issue a certification as a medical  
23 assistant-hemodialysis technician to any person who meets the  
24 qualifications for a medical assistant-hemodialysis technician  
25 established under RCW 18.360.030.

26 (b) In order to allow sufficient time for the processing of a  
27 medical assistant-hemodialysis technician certification, applicants  
28 for that credential who have completed their training program are  
29 allowed to continue to work at dialysis facilities, under the level  
30 of supervision required for the training program, for a period of up  
31 to 180 days after filing their application, to facilitate patient  
32 continuity of care.

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1 (3)(a) The secretary shall issue a certification as a medical  
2 assistant-phlebotomist to any person who meets the qualifications  
3 for a medical assistant-phlebotomist established under RCW 18.360.030.

4 (b) In order to allow sufficient time for the processing of a  
5 medical assistant-phlebotomist certification, applicants for that  
6 credential who have completed their training program are allowed to  
7 work, under the level of supervision required for the training  
8 program, for a period of up to 180 days after filing their  
9 application, to facilitate access to services.

10 (4) The secretary shall issue a certification as a forensic  
11 phlebotomist to any person who meets the qualifications for a  
12 forensic phlebotomist established under RCW 18.360.030.

13 (5)(a) The secretary shall issue a registration as a medical  
14 assistant-registered to any person who has a current endorsement  
15 from a health care practitioner, clinic, or group practice.

16 (b) In order to be endorsed under this subsection (5), a person  
17 must:

18 (i) Be endorsed by a health care practitioner, clinic, or group  
19 practice that meets the qualifications established under RCW  
20 18.360.030; and

21 (ii) Have a current attestation of his or her endorsement to  
22 perform specific medical tasks signed by a supervising health care  
23 practitioner filed with the department. A medical assistant-  
24 registered may only perform the medical tasks listed in his or her  
25 current attestation of endorsement.

26 (c) A registration based on an endorsement by a health care  
27 practitioner, clinic, or group practice is not transferable to  
28 another health care practitioner, clinic, or group practice.

29 (d) An applicant for registration as a medical assistant-  
30 registered who applies to the department within seven days of  
31 employment by the endorsing health care practitioner, clinic, or  
32 group practice may work as a medical assistant-registered for up to  
33 sixty days while the application is processed. The applicant must  
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1 stop working on the sixtieth day of employment if the registration  
2 has not been granted for any reason.

3 (6) A certification issued under subsections (1) through (3) of  
4 this section is transferable between different practice settings. A  
5 certification under subsection (4) of this section is transferable  
6 between law enforcement agencies.

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8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.360.050 and 2014 c 138 s 1 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) A medical assistant-certified may perform the following  
11 duties delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care  
12 practitioner:

13 (a) Fundamental procedures:

14 (i) Wrapping items for autoclaving;

15 (ii) Procedures for sterilizing equipment and instruments;

16 (iii) Disposing of biohazardous materials; and

17 (iv) Practicing standard precautions.

18 (b) Clinical procedures:

19 (i) Performing aseptic procedures in a setting other than a  
20 hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW;

21 (ii) Preparing of and assisting in sterile procedures in a  
22 setting other than a hospital under chapter 70.41 RCW;

23 (iii) Taking vital signs;

24 (iv) Preparing patients for examination;

25 (v) Capillary blood withdrawal, venipuncture, and intradermal,  
26 subcutaneous, and intramuscular injections; and

27 (vi) Observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms.

28 (c) Specimen collection:

29 (i) Capillary puncture and venipuncture;

30 (ii) Obtaining specimens for microbiological testing; and

31 (iii) Instructing patients in proper technique to collect urine  
32 and fecal specimens.

33 (d) Diagnostic testing:

34 (i) Electrocardiography;

1 (ii) Respiratory testing; and  
2 (iii)(A) Tests waived under the federal clinical laboratory  
3 improvement amendments program on July 1, 2013. The department shall  
4 periodically update the tests authorized under this subsection (1)  
5 (d) based on changes made by the federal clinical laboratory  
6 improvement amendments program; and  
7 (B) Moderate complexity tests if the medical assistant-certified  
8 meets standards for personnel qualifications and responsibilities in  
9 compliance with federal regulation for nonwaived testing.  
10 (e) Patient care:  
11 (i) Telephone and in-person screening limited to intake and  
12 gathering of information without requiring the exercise of judgment  
13 based on clinical knowledge;  
14 (ii) Obtaining vital signs;  
15 (iii) Obtaining and recording patient history;  
16 (iv) Preparing and maintaining examination and treatment areas;  
17 (v) Preparing patients for, and assisting with, routine and  
18 specialty examinations, procedures, treatments, and minor office  
19 surgeries;  
20 (vi) Maintaining medication and immunization records; and  
21 (vii) Screening and following up on test results as directed by  
22 a health care practitioner.  
23 (f)(i) Administering medications. A medical assistant-certified  
24 may only administer medications if the drugs are:  
25 (A) Administered only by unit or single dosage, or by a dosage  
26 calculated and verified by a health care practitioner. For purposes  
27 of this section, a combination or multidose vaccine shall be  
28 considered a unit dose;  
29 (B) Limited to legend drugs, vaccines, and Schedule III-V  
30 controlled substances as authorized by a health care practitioner  
31 under the scope of his or her license and consistent with rules  
32 adopted by the secretary under (f)(ii) of this subsection; and  
33 (C) Administered pursuant to a written order from a health care  
34 practitioner.

1 (ii) A medical assistant-certified may not administer  
2 experimental drugs or chemotherapy agents. The secretary may, by  
3 rule, further limit the drugs that may be administered under this  
4 subsection (1)(f). The rules adopted under this subsection must  
5 limit the drugs based on risk, class, or route.

6 (g) Intravenous injections. A medical assistant-certified may  
7 establish intravenous lines for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes,  
8 without administering medications, under the supervision of a health  
9 care practitioner, and administer intravenous injections for  
10 diagnostic or therapeutic agents under the direct visual supervision  
11 of a health care practitioner if the medical assistant-certified  
12 meets minimum standards established by the secretary in rule. The  
13 minimum standards must be substantially similar to the  
14 qualifications for category D and F health care assistants as they  
15 exist on July 1, 2013.

16 (h) Urethral catheterization when appropriately trained.

17 (2) A medical assistant-hemodialysis technician may perform  
18 hemodialysis when delegated and supervised by a health care  
19 practitioner. A medical assistant-hemodialysis technician may also  
20 administer drugs and oxygen to a patient when delegated and  
21 supervised by a health care practitioner and pursuant to rules  
22 adopted by the secretary.

23 (3) A medical assistant-phlebotomist may perform:

24 (a) Capillary, venous, or arterial invasive procedures for blood  
25 withdrawal when delegated and supervised by a health care  
26 practitioner and pursuant to rules adopted by the secretary;

27 (b) Tests waived under the federal clinical laboratory  
28 improvement amendments program on July 1, 2013. The department shall  
29 periodically update the tests authorized under this section based on  
30 changes made by the federal clinical laboratory improvement  
31 amendments program;

32 (c) Moderate and high complexity tests if the medical assistant-  
33 phlebotomist meets standards for personnel qualifications and  
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1 responsibilities in compliance with federal regulation for nonwaived  
2 testing; and

3 (d) Electrocardiograms.

4 (4) A medical assistant-registered may perform the following  
5 duties delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care  
6 practitioner:

7 (a) Fundamental procedures:

8 (i) Wrapping items for autoclaving;

9 (ii) Procedures for sterilizing equipment and instruments;

10 (iii) Disposing of biohazardous materials; and

11 (iv) Practicing standard precautions.

12 (b) Clinical procedures:

13 (i) Preparing for sterile procedures;

14 (ii) Taking vital signs;

15 (iii) Preparing patients for examination; and

16 (iv) Observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms.

17 (c) Specimen collection:

18 (i) Obtaining specimens for microbiological testing; and

19 (ii) Instructing patients in proper technique to collect urine  
20 and fecal specimens.

21 (d) Patient care:

22 (i) Telephone and in-person screening limited to intake and  
23 gathering of information without requiring the exercise of judgment  
24 based on clinical knowledge;

25 (ii) Obtaining vital signs;

26 (iii) Obtaining and recording patient history;

27 (iv) Preparing and maintaining examination and treatment areas;

28 (v) Preparing patients for, and assisting with, routine and  
29 specialty examinations, procedures, treatments, and minor office  
30 surgeries (~~utilizing no more than local anesthetic~~), including

31 those with minimal sedation. The department may, by rule, prohibit  
32 duties authorized under this subsection (4)(d)(v) if performance of  
33 those duties by a medical assistant-registered would pose an  
34 unreasonable risk to patient safety;



1 (vi) Maintaining medication and immunization records; and  
2 (vii) Screening and following up on test results as directed by  
3 a health care practitioner.

4 (e) Diagnostic testing and electrocardiography.

5 (f)(i) Tests waived under the federal clinical laboratory  
6 improvement amendments program on July 1, 2013. The department shall  
7 periodically update the tests authorized under subsection (1)(d) of  
8 this section based on changes made by the federal clinical  
9 laboratory improvement amendments program.

10 (ii) Moderate complexity tests if the medical assistant-  
11 registered meets standards for personnel qualifications and  
12 responsibilities in compliance with federal regulation for nonwaived  
13 testing.

14 ~~((f))~~ (g) Administering eye drops, topical ointments, and  
15 vaccines, including combination or multidose vaccines.

16 ~~((g))~~ (h) Urethral catheterization when appropriately trained.

17 (i) Administering medications:

18 (i) A medical assistant-registered may only administer  
19 medications if the drugs are:

20 (A) Administered only by unit or single dosage, or by a dosage  
21 calculated and verified by a health care practitioner. For purposes  
22 of this section, a combination or multidose vaccine shall be  
23 considered a unit dose;

24 (B) Limited to legend drugs, vaccines, and Schedule III through  
25 V controlled substances as authorized by a health care practitioner  
26 under the scope of his or her license and consistent with rules  
27 adopted by the secretary under (i)(ii) of this subsection; and

28 (C) Administered pursuant to a written order from a health care  
29 practitioner.

30 (ii) A medical assistant-registered may only administer  
31 medication for intramuscular injections. A medical assistant-  
32 registered may not administer experimental drugs or chemotherapy  
33 agents. The secretary may, by rule, further limit the drugs that may  
34 be administered under this subsection (4)(i). The rules adopted

1 under this subsection must limit the drugs based on risk, class, or  
2 route.

3 (j) Intramuscular injections. A medical assistant-registered may  
4 administer intramuscular injections for diagnostic or therapeutic  
5 agents under the immediate supervision of a health care practitioner  
6 if the medical assistant-registered meets minimum standards  
7 established by the secretary in rule.

8  
9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate  
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
11 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
12 effect immediately."

13

14 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Amends the definition of "supervision" to specify that a supervising health care practitioner is not required to be present during procedures to administer vaccines or obtain specimens for or perform diagnostic testing. Allows an applicant for a medical assistant-hemodialysis technician certification who has completed their training program to continue to work at dialysis facilities, under the level of supervision required for the training program, for a period of up to 180 days after filing their application. Expands the authorized duties of a medical assistant-registered to include diagnostic testing, electrocardiography, administering certain medications, and intramuscular injections. Adds an emergency clause.

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