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**HOUSE BILL 1674**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Thai, Reed, Scott, Parshley, Zahn, and Macri

Read first time 01/28/25. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, an  
7 adult patient who receives primary care services from a health care  
8 entity where primary care services are provided shall be offered a  
9 hepatitis B screening test and a hepatitis C screening test during an  
10 annual physical examination, wellness visit, or the first visit with  
11 a provider that is new to the patient based on the latest screening  
12 indications recommended by the federal centers for disease control  
13 and prevention. A health care entity where primary care services are  
14 provided may comply with this subsection by:

15 (a) Offering patients that meet the recommended screening  
16 indications a hepatitis B screening test and a hepatitis C screening  
17 test during an annual physical examination, wellness visit, or the  
18 first visit with a provider that is new to the patient;

19 (b) Incorporating a prompt for hepatitis B screening tests and  
20 hepatitis C screening tests for the recommended populations into the  
21 health care entity's electronic health record system; or

1 (c) Sending routine mailers or electronic communications to the  
2 health care entity's primary care patients that meet the recommended  
3 screening indications informing patients of the availability and  
4 importance of hepatitis B screening tests and hepatitis C screening  
5 tests.

6 (2) A hepatitis B screening test and a hepatitis C screening test  
7 are not required to be offered by the health care entity if:

8 (a) The patient is being treated for a life-threatening  
9 emergency;

10 (b) The patient has previously been offered or has been the  
11 subject of a hepatitis B screening test or a hepatitis C screening  
12 test, unless a health care provider within the health care entity  
13 determines that one or both of the screening tests should be offered  
14 again; or

15 (c) The patient lacks capacity to consent to a hepatitis B  
16 screening test or a hepatitis C screening test, or both.

17 (3) (a) If the patient accepts the offer of the hepatitis B  
18 screening test and the test is hepatitis B surface antigen positive,  
19 the health care provider within the health care entity shall offer  
20 the patient follow-up health care or refer the patient to another  
21 health care provider who can provide follow-up health care.

22 (b) If a patient accepts the offer of the hepatitis C screening  
23 test and the test is positive, the health care provider within the  
24 health care entity shall offer the patient follow-up health care or  
25 refer the patient to another health care provider who can provide  
26 follow-up health care. The follow-up health care shall include a  
27 hepatitis C diagnostic test.

28 (4) The offering of a hepatitis B screening test and a hepatitis  
29 C screening test under this section must be culturally and  
30 linguistically appropriate.

31 (5) By January 1, 2026, health care providers providing primary  
32 care services must complete health training modules on hepatitis B  
33 and hepatitis C offered online by the University of Washington.  
34 Health care providers licensed after January 1, 2026, or new to  
35 providing primary care services after that date, must complete the  
36 training modules before providing primary care services.

37 (6) This section does not affect the scope of practice of any  
38 health care provider or diminish any authority or legal or  
39 professional obligation of any health care provider to offer a  
40 hepatitis B screening test, hepatitis C screening test, or both, or a

1 hepatitis C diagnostic test, or to provide services or care for the  
2 patient of a hepatitis B screening test, hepatitis C screening test,  
3 or both, or a hepatitis C diagnostic test.

4 (7) A health care provider or health care entity where primary  
5 care services are provided that fails to comply with the requirements  
6 of this section shall not be subject to any actions related to their  
7 licensure or certification, or to any civil or criminal liability,  
8 because of the health care entity's failure to comply with the  
9 requirements of this section.

10 (8) The department of health may adopt rules necessary to  
11 implement this section and any additional rules involving the  
12 offering of screening tests and treatment requirements for hepatitis  
13 B and hepatitis C and the training for health care entities and  
14 health care providers.

15 (9) For purposes of this section:

16 (a) "Follow-up health care" includes providing medical management  
17 and antiviral treatment for chronic hepatitis B or hepatitis C  
18 according to the latest national clinical practice guidelines  
19 recommended by the American association for the study of liver  
20 diseases.

21 (b) "Health care entity where primary care services are provided"  
22 means an unlicensed health care clinic, urgent care clinic, and any  
23 other health care setting where primary care services are provided.

24 (c) "Hepatitis B screening test" includes any laboratory test or  
25 tests that detect the presence of hepatitis B surface antigen and  
26 provides confirmation of whether the patient has a chronic hepatitis  
27 B infection.

28 (d) "Hepatitis C diagnostic test" includes any laboratory test or  
29 tests that detect the presence of the hepatitis C virus in the blood  
30 and provides confirmation of whether the patient has an active  
31 hepatitis C virus infection.

32 (e) "Hepatitis C screening test" includes any laboratory  
33 screening test or tests that detect the presence of hepatitis C virus  
34 antibodies in the blood and provides confirmation of whether the  
35 patient has ever been infected with the hepatitis C virus.

36 (f) "Primary care services" means routine health care services,  
37 including screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for the

1 purpose of promotion of health, and detection and management of  
2 disease or injury.

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