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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1720**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Schmick and Low)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the types of medication assistance  
2 that may be provided to residents of community-based care settings;  
3 and amending RCW 69.41.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 69.41.010 and 2024 c 102 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings  
8 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

9 (1) "Administer" means the direct application of a legend drug  
10 whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or any other means, to  
11 the body of a patient or research subject by:

12 (a) A practitioner; or

13 (b) The patient or research subject at the direction of the  
14 practitioner.

15 (2) "Commission" means the pharmacy quality assurance commission.

16 (3) "Community-based care settings" include: Community  
17 residential programs for persons with developmental disabilities,  
18 certified by the department of social and health services under  
19 chapter 71A.12 RCW; adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128  
20 RCW; and assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW.

1 Community-based care settings do not include acute care or skilled  
2 nursing facilities.

3 (4) "Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive, or  
4 attempted transfer from one person to another of a legend drug,  
5 whether or not there is an agency relationship.

6 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

7 (6) "Dispense" means the interpretation of a prescription or  
8 order for a legend drug and, pursuant to that prescription or order,  
9 the proper selection, measuring, compounding, labeling, or packaging  
10 necessary to prepare that prescription or order for delivery.

11 (7) "Dispenser" means a practitioner who dispenses.

12 (8) "Distribute" means to deliver other than by administering or  
13 dispensing a legend drug.

14 (9) "Distributor" means a person who distributes.

15 (10) "Drug" means:

16 (a) Substances recognized as drugs in the official United States  
17 pharmacopoeia, official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United  
18 States, or official national formulary, or any supplement to any of  
19 them;

20 (b) Substances intended for use in the diagnosis, cure,  
21 mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in human beings or  
22 animals;

23 (c) Substances (other than food, minerals or vitamins) intended  
24 to affect the structure or any function of the body of human beings  
25 or animals; and

26 (d) Substances intended for use as a component of any article  
27 specified in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection. It does not include  
28 devices or their components, parts, or accessories.

29 (11) "Electronic communication of prescription information" means  
30 the transmission of a prescription or refill authorization for a drug  
31 of a practitioner using computer systems. The term does not include a  
32 prescription or refill authorization transmitted verbally by  
33 telephone nor a facsimile manually signed by the practitioner.

34 (12) "In-home care settings" include an individual's place of  
35 temporary and permanent residence, but does not include acute care or  
36 skilled nursing facilities, and does not include community-based care  
37 settings.

38 (13) "Legend drugs" means any drugs which are required by state  
39 law or regulation of the pharmacy quality assurance commission to be

1 dispensed on prescription only or are restricted to use by  
2 practitioners only.

3 (14) "Legible prescription" means a prescription or medication  
4 order issued by a practitioner that is capable of being read and  
5 understood by the pharmacist filling the prescription or the nurse or  
6 other practitioner implementing the medication order. A prescription  
7 must be hand printed, typewritten, or electronically generated.

8 (15) "Medication assistance" means assistance rendered by a  
9 nonpractitioner to an individual residing in a community-based care  
10 setting or in-home care setting to facilitate the individual's self-  
11 administration of a legend drug or legend drugs, which may include a  
12 controlled substance or controlled substances. It includes reminding  
13 or coaching the individual, handing the medication container to the  
14 individual, opening the individual's medication container, using an  
15 enabler, or placing the medication in the individual's hand, and such  
16 other means of medication assistance as defined by rule adopted by  
17 the department. A nonpractitioner may help in the preparation of  
18 legend drugs (~~(or)~~), including controlled substances, for self-  
19 administration where a practitioner has determined and communicated  
20 orally or by written direction that such medication preparation  
21 assistance is necessary and appropriate. Medication assistance shall  
22 not include assistance with intravenous medications or injectable  
23 medications, except (~~(prefilled insulin syringes)~~) setting up  
24 diabetic devices for self-administration or handing injectable  
25 medications to an individual for self-administration.

26 (16) "Person" means individual, corporation, government or  
27 governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust,  
28 partnership or association, or any other legal entity.

29 (17) "Practitioner" means:

30 (a) A physician under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician  
31 or an osteopathic physician and surgeon under chapter 18.57 RCW, a  
32 dentist under chapter 18.32 RCW, a podiatric physician and surgeon  
33 under chapter 18.22 RCW, an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern  
34 medicine practitioner to the extent authorized under chapter 18.06  
35 RCW and the rules adopted under RCW 18.06.010(1)(m), a veterinarian  
36 under chapter 18.92 RCW, a registered nurse, advanced practice  
37 registered nurse (~~(practitioner)~~), or licensed practical nurse under  
38 chapter 18.79 RCW, an optometrist under chapter 18.53 RCW who is  
39 certified by the optometry board under RCW 18.53.010, a physician  
40 assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW, a naturopath licensed under

1 chapter 18.36A RCW, a licensed athletic trainer to the extent  
2 authorized under chapter 18.250 RCW, a pharmacist under chapter 18.64  
3 RCW, when acting under the required supervision of a dentist licensed  
4 under chapter 18.32 RCW, a dental hygienist licensed under chapter  
5 18.29 RCW, a licensed dental therapist to the extent authorized under  
6 chapter 18.265 RCW, or a licensed midwife to the extent authorized  
7 under chapter 18.50 RCW;

8 (b) A pharmacy, hospital, or other institution licensed,  
9 registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct  
10 research with respect to, or to administer a legend drug in the  
11 course of professional practice or research in this state; and

12 (c) A physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a  
13 physician licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in  
14 any state, or province of Canada, which shares a common border with  
15 the state of Washington.

16 (18) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's  
17 designee.

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