
HOUSE BILL 1123

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Morrell, Hunter, Pedersen, Chase, Ormsby, Simpson, Wood, and Conway

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing the spread of methicillin-resistant
2 staphylococcus aureus; and adding a new section to chapter 70.41 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 70.41 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Each hospital licensed under this chapter shall, by January 1,
7 2010, adopt a policy regarding methicillin-resistant staphylococcus
8 aureus. The policy shall, at a minimum, contain the following
9 elements:

10 (a) A procedure for identifying and testing at-risk patients for
11 methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus;

12 (b) Appropriate procedures to help prevent patients who test
13 positive for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus from infecting
14 other patients. For purposes of this subsection, "appropriate
15 procedures" include, but are not limited to, segregating the patient;
16 and

17 (c) A requirement that every patient who tests positive for
18 methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus receive oral and written

1 instructions regarding aftercare and precautions to prevent the spread
2 of the infection to others.

3 (2)(a) A hospital that has identified a patient who tests positive
4 for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus shall report the
5 infection to the department using the department's comprehensive
6 hospital abstract reporting system. When making its report, the
7 hospital shall, whenever possible, use codes developed by the United
8 States centers for medicare and medicaid services.

9 (b) Beginning November 15, 2009, the department shall annually
10 issue a statewide report on the data it has collected using the
11 comprehensive hospital abstract reporting system under this subsection.
12 The report may contain any data trends the department has identified
13 and any recommendations the department may have for reducing the spread
14 of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus.

15 (3) For purposes of this section, "at-risk patient" means a
16 surgical patient who, because of the nature of the surgical procedure
17 involved, faces great risk of harm if infected with methicillin-
18 resistant staphylococcus aureus during the procedure or a patient who
19 is in a hospital's intensive care unit.

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