
HOUSE BILL 2761

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Green, Campbell, and Morrell

Read first time 01/13/10. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to dental hygienists working with physicians and
2 nurse practitioners; and amending RCW 18.29.056.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.29.056 and 2009 c 321 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1)(a) Subject to RCW 18.29.230 and (e) of this subsection, dental
7 hygienists licensed under this chapter with two years' practical
8 clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the preceding five
9 years may be employed, retained, or contracted by health care
10 facilities and senior centers to perform authorized dental hygiene
11 operations and services without dental supervision.

12 (b) Subject to RCW 18.29.230 and (e) of this subsection, dental
13 hygienists licensed under this chapter with two years' practical
14 clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the preceding five
15 years may perform authorized dental hygiene operations and services
16 without dental supervision under a lease agreement with a health care
17 facility or senior center.

18 (c) Dental hygienists performing operations and services under (a)
19 or (b) of this subsection are limited to removal of deposits and stains

1 from the surfaces of the teeth, application of topical preventive or
2 prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing restorations, and
3 performance of root planing and soft-tissue curettage, but shall not
4 perform injections of anesthetic agents, administration of nitrous
5 oxide, or diagnosis for dental treatment.

6 (d) The performance of dental hygiene operations and services in
7 health care facilities shall be limited to patients, students, and
8 residents of the facilities.

9 (e) A dental hygienist employed, retained, or contracted to perform
10 services under this section or otherwise performing services under a
11 lease agreement under this section in a senior center must, before
12 providing services:

13 (i) Enter into a written practice arrangement plan, approved by the
14 department, with a dentist licensed in this state, under which the
15 dentist will provide off-site supervision of the dental services
16 provided. This agreement does not create an obligation for the dentist
17 to accept referrals of patients receiving services under the program;

18 (ii) Collect data on the patients treated by dental hygienists
19 under the program, including age, treatments rendered, insurance
20 coverage, if any, and patient referral to dentists. This data must be
21 submitted to the department of health at the end of each annual
22 quarter, during the period of time between October 1, 2007, and October
23 1, 2013; and

24 (iii) Obtain information from the patient's primary health care
25 provider about any health conditions of the patient that would be
26 relevant to the provision of preventive dental care. The information
27 may be obtained by the dental hygienist's direct contact with the
28 provider or through a written document from the provider that the
29 patient presents to the dental hygienist.

30 (f) For dental planning and dental treatment, dental hygienists
31 shall refer patients to licensed dentists.

32 (2) For the purposes of this section:

33 (a) "Health care facilities" are limited to hospitals; medical
34 clinics owned or operated by physicians or nurse practitioners; nursing
35 homes; home health agencies; group homes serving the elderly,
36 individuals with disabilities, and juveniles; state-operated
37 institutions under the jurisdiction of the department of social and

1 health services or the department of corrections; and federal, state,
2 and local public health facilities, state or federally funded community
3 and migrant health centers, and tribal clinics.

4 (b) "Senior center" means a multipurpose community facility
5 operated and maintained by a nonprofit organization or local government
6 for the organization and provision of a combination of some of the
7 following: Health, social, nutritional, educational services, and
8 recreational activities for persons sixty years of age or older.

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