
SENATE BILL 5448

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senator Hatfield

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the treatment of Lyme disease; and adding a
2 new section to chapter 69.41 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 69.41
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic
7 physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, an advanced registered
8 nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, a physician
9 assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or an osteopathic
10 physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW may prescribe,
11 administer, or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy to a patient who
12 has been diagnosed with Lyme disease. The long-term antibiotic
13 therapy must be for a therapeutic purpose that eliminates infections
14 or controls the patient's symptoms related to his or her diagnosis
15 with Lyme disease.

16 (2) A health care provider acting in compliance with subsection
17 (1) of this section is not subject to professional disciplinary
18 action under chapter 18.130 RCW based solely upon the health care
19 provider's prescribing, administering, or dispensing of long-term
20 antibiotic therapy to a patient who has been diagnosed with Lyme
21 disease.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, the term "long-term
2 antibiotic therapy" means the administration of oral, intramuscular,
3 or intravenous antibiotics, singly or in combination, for periods of
4 time in excess of four weeks.

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