
HOUSE BILL 2133

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representative Dellwo

Read first time 04/13/93. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to nurse delegation; adding new sections to chapter
2 74.13 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that trained
5 unlicensed persons should be allowed to assist in the care of certain
6 foster children with medical needs.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** As used in section 3 of this act:

8 (1) "Stable condition" means a situation where the child's clinical
9 and behavioral status and nursing care needs are determined to be
10 nonfluctuating, consistent, and do not need frequent reassessment.

11 (2) "Unlicensed person" means an individual who is not licensed to
12 practice nursing, medicine, or another health occupation requiring a
13 license in Washington state, but who provides the services specified in
14 section 3(1) of this act to children in foster family homes as defined
15 in chapter 74.15 RCW. For the purpose of this section and section 3
16 of this act, members of the child's immediate family and foster parents
17 licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW are not considered unlicensed persons
18 and may perform nursing tasks without specific delegation.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Unlicensed persons as defined in section
2 2 of this act are allowed to administer the following tasks at the
3 discretion of the delegating registered nurse based upon the registered
4 nurse's assessment of the person's skills.

5 (a) Oral medication;

6 (b) Topical medication, including ear, nose, and eye drops;

7 (c) Changing sterile dressings;

8 (d) Suppositories and unit dose enemas;

9 (e) Home blood glucose testing and monitoring;

10 (f) Injectable insulin;

11 (g) Gastrostomy tube feedings;

12 (h) Clean intermittent catheterization;

13 (i) Inhalants;

14 (j) Oro-pharyngeal suctioning;

15 (k) Intravenous therapy; and

16 (l) Prescribed emergency procedures to treat identified
17 anaphylactic reactions.

18 (2) The department of social and health services in conjunction
19 with the department of health shall adopt rules to implement this
20 section. Such rules shall include the following requirements:

21 (a) Treatment authorized by this section must be prescribed by a
22 health care practitioner licensed under Title 18 RCW who has
23 prescriptive authority, acting within the scope of his or her license.
24 If the delegating registered nurse obtains verbal orders from the
25 health care practitioner amending the existing treatment plan, the
26 verbal orders shall be provided in writing to the unlicensed person.

27 (b) Delegation may be made only by a registered nurse.

28 (c) Delegation may be made only in the case of children in stable
29 condition not requiring ongoing nursing assessment.

30 (d) A registered nurse shall perform an assessment of the child's
31 condition including a plan of risk management, and provide written
32 delegation to the unlicensed person.

33 (e) Appropriate training for each case shall be provided using
34 standards established jointly by the department of health and the
35 department of social and health services.

36 (f) There shall be written instructions and appropriate supervision
37 of the trained unlicensed person. Supervision may be indirect.

1 (g) Unlicensed persons shall be allowed to perform delegated tasks
2 only for a child for whom they have been trained; such training shall
3 not be transferable, but shall be specific to each child.

4 (h) The trained unlicensed person shall follow directions, or take
5 appropriate corrective action upon notice of inappropriate care to
6 comply with the care plan and directions of the delegating nurse in
7 charge.

8 (i) Each delegating nurse shall keep a record of each person to
9 whom tasks have been delegated, the training provided, and the results
10 of each follow-up visit; such record shall be distinct from any
11 clinical record.

12 (j) An appropriate quality assurance system shall be established,
13 including regular evaluation of the program, individual children, and
14 outcomes, and a method to make regular adjustments in the program or
15 level of care of children, and training of unlicensed persons.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
17 to chapter 74.13 RCW.

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