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SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2475

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Morrell, and Green)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/08.

1            AN ACT Relating to the practice of health care assistants; amending  
2 RCW 18.135.010, 18.135.020, and 18.135.065; and adding a new section to  
3 chapter 18.135 RCW.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.135.010 and 1984 c 281 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            It is in ~~((the))~~ this state's public interest that limited  
8 authority to: (1) Administer skin tests and subcutaneous, intradermal,  
9 intramuscular, and intravenous injections ~~((and to))~~; (2) perform minor  
10 invasive procedures to withdraw blood ~~((in this state))~~; and (3)  
11 administer vaccines in accordance with section 4 of this act be granted  
12 to health care assistants who are not so authorized under existing  
13 licensing statutes, subject to such regulations as will ~~((assure))~~  
14 ensure the protection of the health and safety of the patient.

15            **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.135.020 and 2001 c 22 s 2 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17            ~~((As used in this chapter\*))~~ The definitions in this section apply  
18 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (1) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

2 (2) "Health care assistant" means an unlicensed person who assists  
3 a licensed health care practitioner in providing health care to  
4 patients pursuant to this chapter. However, persons trained by a  
5 federally approved end-stage renal disease facility who perform end-  
6 stage renal dialysis in the home setting are exempt from certification  
7 under this chapter.

8 (3) "Health care practitioner" means:

9 (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW;

10 (b) An osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed under chapter  
11 18.57 RCW; or

12 (c) Acting within the scope of their respective licensure, a  
13 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, a  
14 registered nurse or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed  
15 under chapter 18.79 RCW, ~~((or))~~ a naturopath licensed under chapter  
16 18.36A RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or  
17 an osteopathic physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW.

18 (4) "Supervision" means supervision of procedures permitted  
19 pursuant to this chapter by a health care practitioner who is  
20 physically present and is immediately available in the facility during  
21 the administration of injections or vaccines, as defined in this  
22 chapter, but need not be present during procedures to withdraw blood.

23 (5) "Health care facility" means any hospital, hospice care center,  
24 licensed or certified health care facility, health maintenance  
25 organization regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW, federally qualified  
26 health maintenance organization, renal dialysis center or facility  
27 federally approved under 42 C.F.R. 405.2100, blood bank federally  
28 licensed under 21 C.F.R. 607, or clinical laboratory certified under 20  
29 C.F.R. 405.1301-16.

30 (6) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a licensed  
31 health care practitioner to a health care assistant to perform the  
32 functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope of  
33 practice of the delegator and which are not within the scope of  
34 practice of the delegatee.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.135.065 and 1991 c 3 s 276 are each amended to read  
36 as follows:

37 (1) Each delegator, as defined under RCW 18.135.020(6), shall

1 maintain a list of: (a) Specific medications(( $\tau$ )) and diagnostic  
2 agents, and the route of administration of each, that he or she has  
3 authorized for injection; and (b) the vaccines that he or she has  
4 authorized for administration. Both the delegator and delegatee shall  
5 sign the above list, indicating the date of each signature. The signed  
6 list shall be forwarded to the secretary of the department of health  
7 and shall be available for review.

8 (2) Delegates are prohibited from administering any controlled  
9 substance as defined in RCW 69.50.101(d), any experimental drug, and  
10 any cancer chemotherapy agent unless a delegator is physically present  
11 in the immediate area where the drug is administered.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 18.135 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 The administration of vaccines by a health care assistant is  
15 restricted to vaccines that are administered by injection, orally, or  
16 topically, including nasal administration, and that are licensed by the  
17 United States food and drug administration.

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