
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5497

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Marr, Keiser, and Murray)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to the delivery of home health care services
2 through telemedicine; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 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 74.09 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The telemedicine program shall include health care professional
7 oversight and intervention as appropriate and must still meet the
8 criteria of medically necessary for a telemedicine visit. The services
9 delivered through telemedicine are subject to reimbursement policies
10 adopted by rule of the department after consultation with home health
11 care service providers. Home health care services delivered through
12 telemedicine are covered by and reimbursed under the state's medicaid
13 payment program.

14 (2)(a) The department shall establish the reimbursement rate for
15 home health care services delivered by a home health agency licensed
16 under chapter 70.127 RCW through telemedicine that are otherwise
17 eligible for reimbursement under the medical assistance program.

18 (b) The reimbursement rate must be comparable to the rate currently
19 paid for a home health visit.

1 (c) Reimbursement is not provided for purchase or lease of
2 telemedicine equipment.

3 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the scope
4 of practice of any home health care services provider or authorize the
5 delivery of home health care services in a setting or manner not
6 otherwise authorized by law.

7 (4) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" means the use
8 of telemonitoring to enhance the delivery of certain home health
9 medical services, through the electronic transfer of medical data, or
10 the provision of certain education related to health care services
11 using audio, video, or data communication in lieu of a face-to-face
12 visit.

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