

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1529**

Chapter 326, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature  
2009 Regular Session

HOME HEALTH CARE--TELEMEDICINE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the House April 18, 2009  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2009  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved May 4, 2009, 4:50 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1529** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 5, 2009

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1529**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Seaquist, Hinkle, Morrell, Bailey, Moeller, Clibborn, Green, and Cody)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

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 home health program shall require registered nurse  
7 oversight and intervention, as appropriate. In-person contact between  
8 a home health care registered nurse and a patient is not required under  
9 the state's medical assistance program for home health services that  
10 are: (a) Delivered with the assistance of telemedicine and (b)  
11 otherwise eligible for reimbursement as a medically necessary skilled  
12 home health nursing visit under the program.

13            (2) The department in consultation with home health care service  
14 providers shall develop reimbursement rules and, in rule, define the  
15 requirements that must be met for a reimbursable skilled nursing visit  
16 when services are rendered without a face-to-face visit and are  
17 assisted by telemedicine.

18            (3)(a) The department shall establish the reimbursement rate for

1 skilled home health nursing services delivered with the assistance of  
2 telemedicine that meet the requirements of a reimbursable visit as  
3 defined by the department.

4 (b) Reimbursement is not provided for purchase or lease of  
5 telemedicine equipment.

6 (4) Any home health agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW and  
7 eligible for reimbursement under the medical programs authorized under  
8 this chapter may be reimbursed for services under this section if the  
9 service meets the requirements for a reimbursable skilled nursing visit  
10 as defined by the department.

11 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the scope  
12 of practice of any home health care services provider or authorizes the  
13 delivery of home health care services in a setting or manner not  
14 otherwise authorized by law.

15 (6) The use of telemedicine is not intended to replace registered  
16 nurse health care visit when necessary.

17 (7) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" means the use  
18 of telemonitoring to enhance the delivery of certain home health  
19 medical services through:

20 (a) The provision of certain education related to health care  
21 services using audio, video, or data communication instead of a face-  
22 to-face visit; or

23 (b) The collection of clinical data and the transmission of such  
24 data between a patient at a distant location and the home health  
25 provider through electronic processing technologies. Objective  
26 clinical data that may be transmitted includes, but is not limited to,  
27 weight, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, blood glucose, and pulse  
28 oximetry.

Passed by the House April 18, 2009.

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2009.

Approved by the Governor May 4, 2009.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 5, 2009.