
HOUSE BILL 2447

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives McCabe, Cody, Caldier, Orwall, Dye, Macri, Muri, Smith, Barkis, Harmsworth, Haler, Senn, Pollet, and Doglio

Read first time 01/09/18. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to practitioner education of opiate risks and
2 pain management alternatives; adding a new section to chapter 69.50
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; creating new
4 sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as
7 Jeremy's law.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislature finds that:

9 (a) According to the centers for disease control and prevention,
10 the United States is in the midst of an opioid overdose epidemic, and
11 the number of drug overdose deaths has never been higher;

12 (b) As many as one in four patients who are prescribed opioids
13 long-term struggle with opioid addiction;

14 (c) Individuals who are addicted to prescription opioids are
15 forty times more likely to become addicted to heroin; and

16 (d) In 2016, opioids killed six hundred ninety-four people in
17 Washington and caused over one thousand four hundred hospitalizations
18 for opioid overdose.

19 (2) The legislature therefore intends to address this issue by
20 requiring health care practitioners to educate their patients on the

1 risks of opioids and to inform patients of nonopioid pain management
2 alternatives when prescribing opioids for the first time during the
3 course of treatment.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 69.50
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Any practitioner authorized to prescribe opiates who writes a
7 prescription for an opiate for the first time during the course of
8 treatment to any patient shall have an in-person discussion with the
9 patient that includes:

10 (a) The risks of opiates, including risk of dependence and
11 overdose;

12 (b) Pain management alternatives to opiates, including
13 nonpharmacological treatments available to the patient; and

14 (c) A written copy of the warning language provided by the
15 department under section 2 of this act.

16 (2) If the patient is under eighteen years old or lacks legal
17 competence, the in-person discussion required by subsection (1) of
18 this section must also include the patient's parent, guardian, or
19 legal representative, unless otherwise provided by law.

20 (3) The practitioner shall document completion of the
21 requirements in subsection (1) of this section in the patient's
22 health care record.

23 (4) Violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct
24 under chapter 18.130 RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 The department shall create a brief statement warning individuals
28 about the risks of opiate use and abuse. The department shall provide
29 the warning on its web site.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
32 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
33 effect April 1, 2018.

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