

---

**SENATE BILL 6311**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Zeiger, O'Ban, Dhingra, and Wagoner

1 AN ACT Relating to persons with substance use disorders; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 71.24 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Every patient who presents to a hospital, health care clinic,  
8 emergency room, evaluation and treatment center, or crisis diversion  
9 facility with an indication of a substance use disorder, opioid  
10 overdose, or chronic addiction must receive, with patient consent,  
11 prior to discharge:

12 (a) A substance use disorder evaluation;

13 (b) Medically necessary services for treatment of a substance use  
14 disorder, if any, until care can be transferred to an appropriate  
15 inpatient or outpatient substance use disorder treatment facility,  
16 including administration of medication for the purpose of relieving  
17 acute opioid withdrawal symptoms;

18 (c) Information about the availability of clinically appropriate  
19 inpatient and outpatient services for the treatment of a substance  
20 use disorder, including detoxification, stabilization, medication-  
21 assisted treatment, residential treatment, clinicians with expertise

1 in the treatment of substance use disorders, and recovery coach  
2 services provided by certified substance use disorder peer  
3 counselors;

4 (d) Recovery planning tools; and

5 (e) Notification of discharge to the patient's emergency contacts  
6 and recovery coach, unless the patient refuses to consent to  
7 notification. Refusal to consent to notification must be noted in the  
8 patient's medical record.

9 (2) Every patient who begins a course of treatment for a  
10 substance use disorder must be referred, with patient consent, to  
11 receive recovery coach services from a certified substance use  
12 disorder peer counselor.

13 (3) The services described under this section may be provided  
14 through telemedicine or other innovative service models.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The authority must develop and disseminate best practice  
18 protocols for the use of facilities under section 1 of this act for  
19 client screening, referral, evaluation, transfer, and provision of  
20 medically necessary temporary treatment services, including  
21 medication assisted treatment therapy, related to clients who present  
22 with an indication of a substance use disorder, opioid overdose, or  
23 chronic addiction.

24 (2) The authority and the department must develop rules to assure  
25 prompt, voluntary access to clinically appropriate inpatient and  
26 outpatient substance use disorder services.

27 (3) The authority must develop a system to make information  
28 available to facilities under section 1 of this act related to the  
29 availability of clinically appropriate inpatient and outpatient  
30 services for the treatment of substance use disorders and must  
31 develop a strategy to update this information in real time.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) The authority shall prepare a gap analysis and implementation  
35 plan for delivery to the governor and appropriate committees of the  
36 legislature by December 1, 2021, to implement sections 1 and 2 of  
37 this act, including an analysis of workforce needs and proposals to  
38 provide the needed level of services.

1           (2) This section expires January 1, 2024.

2           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect  
3   January 1, 2024.

--- **END** ---