
HOUSE BILL 1720

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmick and Low

Read first time 01/29/25. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the types of medication assistance
2 that may be provided to residents of community-based care settings;
3 and amending RCW 69.41.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 69.41.010 and 2024 c 102 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings
8 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

9 (1) "Administer" means the direct application of a legend drug
10 whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or any other means, to
11 the body of a patient or research subject by:

12 (a) A practitioner; or

13 (b) The patient or research subject at the direction of the
14 practitioner.

15 (2) "Commission" means the pharmacy quality assurance commission.

16 (3) "Community-based care settings" include: Community
17 residential programs for persons with developmental disabilities,
18 certified by the department of social and health services under
19 chapter 71A.12 RCW; adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128
20 RCW; and assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW.

1 Community-based care settings do not include acute care or skilled
2 nursing facilities.

3 (4) "Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive, or
4 attempted transfer from one person to another of a legend drug,
5 whether or not there is an agency relationship.

6 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

7 (6) "Dispense" means the interpretation of a prescription or
8 order for a legend drug and, pursuant to that prescription or order,
9 the proper selection, measuring, compounding, labeling, or packaging
10 necessary to prepare that prescription or order for delivery.

11 (7) "Dispenser" means a practitioner who dispenses.

12 (8) "Distribute" means to deliver other than by administering or
13 dispensing a legend drug.

14 (9) "Distributor" means a person who distributes.

15 (10) "Drug" means:

16 (a) Substances recognized as drugs in the official United States
17 pharmacopoeia, official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United
18 States, or official national formulary, or any supplement to any of
19 them;

20 (b) Substances intended for use in the diagnosis, cure,
21 mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in human beings or
22 animals;

23 (c) Substances (other than food, minerals or vitamins) intended
24 to affect the structure or any function of the body of human beings
25 or animals; and

26 (d) Substances intended for use as a component of any article
27 specified in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection. It does not include
28 devices or their components, parts, or accessories.

29 (11) "Electronic communication of prescription information" means
30 the transmission of a prescription or refill authorization for a drug
31 of a practitioner using computer systems. The term does not include a
32 prescription or refill authorization transmitted verbally by
33 telephone nor a facsimile manually signed by the practitioner.

34 (12) "In-home care settings" include an individual's place of
35 temporary and permanent residence, but does not include acute care or
36 skilled nursing facilities, and does not include community-based care
37 settings.

38 (13) "Legend drugs" means any drugs which are required by state
39 law or regulation of the pharmacy quality assurance commission to be

1 dispensed on prescription only or are restricted to use by
2 practitioners only.

3 (14) "Legible prescription" means a prescription or medication
4 order issued by a practitioner that is capable of being read and
5 understood by the pharmacist filling the prescription or the nurse or
6 other practitioner implementing the medication order. A prescription
7 must be hand printed, typewritten, or electronically generated.

8 (15) "Medication assistance" means assistance rendered by a
9 nonpractitioner to an individual residing in a community-based care
10 setting or in-home care setting to facilitate the individual's self-
11 administration of a legend drug or drugs, which may include a
12 controlled substance or controlled substances. It includes reminding
13 or coaching the individual, handing the medication container to the
14 individual, opening the individual's medication container, using an
15 enabler, or placing the medication in the individual's hand, and such
16 other means of medication assistance as defined by rule adopted by
17 the department. A nonpractitioner may help in the preparation of
18 legend drugs (~~(or)~~), including controlled substances, for self-
19 administration where a practitioner has determined and communicated
20 orally or by written direction that such medication preparation
21 assistance is necessary and appropriate. Medication assistance shall
22 not include assistance with intravenous medications or injectable
23 medications, except (~~(prefilled insulin syringes)~~) setting up
24 diabetic devices for self-administration or handing injectable
25 medications to an individual for self-administration.

26 (16) "Person" means individual, corporation, government or
27 governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust,
28 partnership or association, or any other legal entity.

29 (17) "Practitioner" means:

30 (a) A physician under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician
31 or an osteopathic physician and surgeon under chapter 18.57 RCW, a
32 dentist under chapter 18.32 RCW, a podiatric physician and surgeon
33 under chapter 18.22 RCW, an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern
34 medicine practitioner to the extent authorized under chapter 18.06
35 RCW and the rules adopted under RCW 18.06.010(1)(m), a veterinarian
36 under chapter 18.92 RCW, a registered nurse, advanced practice
37 registered nurse (~~(practitioner)~~), or licensed practical nurse under
38 chapter 18.79 RCW, an optometrist under chapter 18.53 RCW who is
39 certified by the optometry board under RCW 18.53.010, a physician
40 assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW, a naturopath licensed under

1 chapter 18.36A RCW, a licensed athletic trainer to the extent
2 authorized under chapter 18.250 RCW, a pharmacist under chapter 18.64
3 RCW, when acting under the required supervision of a dentist licensed
4 under chapter 18.32 RCW, a dental hygienist licensed under chapter
5 18.29 RCW, a licensed dental therapist to the extent authorized under
6 chapter 18.265 RCW, or a licensed midwife to the extent authorized
7 under chapter 18.50 RCW;

8 (b) A pharmacy, hospital, or other institution licensed,
9 registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct
10 research with respect to, or to administer a legend drug in the
11 course of professional practice or research in this state; and

12 (c) A physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a
13 physician licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in
14 any state, or province of Canada, which shares a common border with
15 the state of Washington.

16 (18) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's
17 designee.

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