
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2329

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Barnard, Ramel, Ormsby, and Marshall)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to midwife supervision of medical assistants and
2 lactation consultants; amending RCW 18.50.160 and 18.360.010;
3 reenacting and amending RCW 18.360.010; providing an effective date;
4 and providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.50.160 and 2014 c 187 s 4 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) A licensed midwife may delegate to a registered nurse ((~~or~~
9 a)), licensed practical nurse, or medical assistant selected acts,
10 tasks, or procedures that constitute the practice of midwifery but do
11 not exceed the education and scope of practice of the nurse or
12 medical assistant.

13 (2) Nothing in this section prohibits a licensed midwife from
14 coordinating with an international board certified lactation
15 consultant.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.360.010 and 2024 c 248 s 2 and 2024 c 217 s 1 are
17 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

18 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
19 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (1) "Administer" means the retrieval of medication, and its
2 application to a patient, as authorized in RCW 18.360.050.

3 (2) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a licensed
4 health care practitioner to a medical assistant to perform the
5 functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope of
6 practice of the health care provider and the training and experience
7 of the medical assistant.

8 (3) "Department" means the department of health.

9 (4) "Forensic phlebotomist" means a police officer, law
10 enforcement officer, or employee of a correctional facility or
11 detention facility, who is certified under this chapter and meets any
12 additional training and proficiency standards of his or her employer
13 to collect a venous blood sample for forensic testing pursuant to a
14 search warrant, a waiver of the warrant requirement, or exigent
15 circumstances.

16 (5) "Health care practitioner" means:

17 (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW;

18 (b) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter
19 18.57 RCW; or

20 (c) Acting within the scope of their respective licensure, a
21 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, a
22 registered nurse or *advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed
23 under chapter 18.79 RCW, a naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A
24 RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, a
25 midwife licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW, or an optometrist licensed
26 under chapter 18.53 RCW.

27 (6) "Medical assistant-certified" means a person certified under
28 RCW 18.360.040 who assists a health care practitioner with patient
29 care, executes administrative and clinical procedures, and performs
30 functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of the
31 health care practitioner.

32 (7) "Medical assistant-EMT" means a person certified under RCW
33 18.360.040 who performs functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050 under
34 the supervision of a health care practitioner and holds: An emergency
35 medical technician certification under RCW 18.73.081; an advanced
36 emergency medical technician certification under RCW 18.71.205; or a
37 paramedic certification under RCW 18.71.205.

38 (8) "Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician" means a person
39 certified under RCW 18.360.040 who performs hemodialysis and other

1 functions pursuant to RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of a
2 health care practitioner.

3 (9) "Medical assistant-phlebotomist" means a person certified
4 under RCW 18.360.040 who performs capillary, venous, and arterial
5 invasive procedures for blood withdrawal and other functions pursuant
6 to RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of a health care
7 practitioner.

8 (10) "Medical assistant-registered" means a person registered
9 under RCW 18.360.040 who, pursuant to an endorsement by a health care
10 practitioner, clinic, or group practice, assists a health care
11 practitioner with patient care, executes administrative and clinical
12 procedures, and performs functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050
13 under the supervision of the health care practitioner.

14 (11) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

15 (12)(a) "Supervision" means supervision of procedures permitted
16 pursuant to this chapter by a health care practitioner who is
17 physically present and is immediately available in the facility,
18 except as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection.

19 (b) The health care practitioner does not need to be present
20 during procedures to withdraw blood, administer vaccines, or obtain
21 specimens for or perform diagnostic testing, but must be immediately
22 available.

23 (c)(i) During a telemedicine visit, supervision over a medical
24 assistant assisting a health care practitioner with the telemedicine
25 visit may be provided through interactive audio and video
26 telemedicine technology.

27 (ii) When administering intramuscular injections for the purposes
28 of treating a known or suspected syphilis infection in accordance
29 with RCW 18.360.050, a medical assistant-certified or medical
30 assistant-registered may be supervised through interactive audio or
31 video telemedicine technology.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.360.010 and 2025 c 58 s 5084 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
35 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

36 (1) "Administer" means the retrieval of medication, and its
37 application to a patient, as authorized in RCW 18.360.050.

38 (2) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a licensed
39 health care practitioner to a medical assistant to perform the

1 functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope of
2 practice of the health care provider and the training and experience
3 of the medical assistant.

4 (3) "Department" means the department of health.

5 (4) "Forensic phlebotomist" means a police officer, law
6 enforcement officer, or employee of a correctional facility or
7 detention facility, who is certified under this chapter and meets any
8 additional training and proficiency standards of his or her employer
9 to collect a venous blood sample for forensic testing pursuant to a
10 search warrant, a waiver of the warrant requirement, or exigent
11 circumstances.

12 (5) "Health care practitioner" means:

13 (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW;

14 (b) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter
15 18.57 RCW; or

16 (c) Acting within the scope of their respective licensure, a
17 podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, a
18 registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse licensed under
19 chapter 18.79 RCW, a naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW, a
20 physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, a midwife
21 licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW, or an optometrist licensed under
22 chapter 18.53 RCW.

23 (6) "Medical assistant-certified" means a person certified under
24 RCW 18.360.040 who assists a health care practitioner with patient
25 care, executes administrative and clinical procedures, and performs
26 functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of the
27 health care practitioner.

28 (7) "Medical assistant-EMT" means a person certified under RCW
29 18.360.040 who performs functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050 under
30 the supervision of a health care practitioner and holds: An emergency
31 medical technician certification under RCW 18.73.081; an advanced
32 emergency medical technician certification under RCW 18.71.205; or a
33 paramedic certification under RCW 18.71.205.

34 (8) "Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician" means a person
35 certified under RCW 18.360.040 who performs hemodialysis and other
36 functions pursuant to RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of a
37 health care practitioner.

38 (9) "Medical assistant-phlebotomist" means a person certified
39 under RCW 18.360.040 who performs capillary, venous, and arterial
40 invasive procedures for blood withdrawal and other functions pursuant

1 to RCW 18.360.050 under the supervision of a health care
2 practitioner.

3 (10) "Medical assistant-registered" means a person registered
4 under RCW 18.360.040 who, pursuant to an endorsement by a health care
5 practitioner, clinic, or group practice, assists a health care
6 practitioner with patient care, executes administrative and clinical
7 procedures, and performs functions as provided in RCW 18.360.050
8 under the supervision of the health care practitioner.

9 (11) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

10 (12)(a) "Supervision" means supervision of procedures permitted
11 pursuant to this chapter by a health care practitioner who is
12 physically present and is immediately available in the facility,
13 except as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection.

14 (b) The health care practitioner does not need to be present
15 during procedures to withdraw blood, administer vaccines, or obtain
16 specimens for or perform diagnostic testing, but must be immediately
17 available.

18 (c)(i) During a telemedicine visit, supervision over a medical
19 assistant assisting a health care practitioner with the telemedicine
20 visit may be provided through interactive audio and video
21 telemedicine technology.

22 (ii) When administering intramuscular injections for the purposes
23 of treating a known or suspected syphilis infection in accordance
24 with RCW 18.360.050, a medical assistant-certified or medical
25 assistant-registered may be supervised through interactive audio or
26 video telemedicine technology.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act expires June 30,
28 2027.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this act takes effect June
30 30, 2027.

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