
HOUSE BILL 2329

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Barnard, Ramel, Ormsby, and Marshall

Prefiled 01/08/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

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

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

16 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
17 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

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

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

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

14 (5) "Health care practitioner" means:

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

16 (b) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter
17 18.57 RCW; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
33 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

36 (2) "Delegation" means direct authorization granted by a licensed
37 health care practitioner to a medical assistant to perform the
38 functions authorized in this chapter which fall within the scope of

1 practice of the health care provider and the training and experience
2 of the medical assistant.

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

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

11 (5) "Health care practitioner" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (9) "Medical assistant-phlebotomist" means a person certified
38 under RCW 18.360.040 who performs capillary, venous, and arterial
39 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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