
HOUSE BILL 2425

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Thai, Obras, Parshley, Scott, Macri, and Reed; by request of Washington State Board of Nursing

Read first time 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to nursing delegation; amending RCW 18.79.260,
2 18.79.260, 18.88A.210, 18.88A.210, 18.88A.230, 18.88B.070, and
3 70.127.010; providing effective dates; and providing expiration
4 dates.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.260 and 2025 c 58 s 5019 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) A registered nurse under his or her license may perform for
9 compensation nursing care, as that term is usually understood, to
10 individuals with illnesses, injuries, or disabilities.

11 (2) A registered nurse may, at or under the general direction of
12 a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, osteopathic physician and
13 surgeon, naturopathic physician, optometrist, podiatric physician and
14 surgeon, physician assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner,
15 or midwife acting within the scope of his or her license, administer
16 medications, treatments, tests, and inoculations, whether or not the
17 severing or penetrating of tissues is involved and whether or not a
18 degree of independent judgment and skill is required. Such direction
19 must be for acts which are within the scope of registered nursing
20 practice.

1 (3) A registered nurse may delegate tasks (~~(of nursing care)~~) to
2 other individuals in any setting where the registered nurse
3 determines that it is in the best interest of the patient and within
4 the nurse's scope of practice.

5 ~~((a))~~ The delegating nurse shall:

6 ~~((i))~~ (a) Determine the competency of the individual to perform
7 the tasks, including verifying certification or documentation where
8 required by rule or law;

9 ~~((ii))~~ (b) Evaluate the stability of the patient and the
10 appropriateness of the delegation; and

11 ~~((iii))~~ (c) Supervise the actions of the person performing the
12 delegated task~~(; and~~

13 ~~(iv) Delegate only those tasks that are within the registered~~
14 ~~nurse's scope of practice.~~

15 ~~(b) A registered nurse, working for a home health or hospice~~
16 ~~agency regulated under chapter 70.127 RCW, may delegate the~~
17 ~~application, instillation, or insertion of medications to a~~
18 ~~registered or certified nursing assistant under a plan of care.~~

19 ~~(c) Except as authorized in (b) or (e) of this subsection, a~~
20 ~~registered nurse may not delegate the administration of medications.~~
21 ~~Except as authorized in (e) or (f) of this subsection, a registered~~
22 ~~nurse may not delegate acts requiring substantial skill, and may not~~
23 ~~delegate piercing or severing of tissues. Acts that require nursing~~
24 ~~judgment shall not be delegated.~~

25 ~~(d))~~ .

26 (4) Except as authorized in subsection (7) of this section, a
27 registered nurse may not delegate the administration of medications,
28 tasks involving piercing or severing of tissues, or acts that require
29 substantial skill. Acts that require nursing judgment may not be
30 delegated.

31 (5) No person may coerce a nurse into compromising patient safety
32 by requiring the nurse to delegate if the nurse determines that it is
33 inappropriate to do so. Nurses shall not be subject to any employer
34 reprisal or disciplinary action by the board for refusing to delegate
35 tasks or refusing to provide the required training for delegation if
36 the nurse determines delegation may compromise patient safety.

37 ~~((e) For delegation in community-based care settings or in-home~~
38 ~~care settings, a registered nurse may delegate nursing care tasks~~
39 ~~only to registered or certified nursing assistants under chapter~~
40 ~~18.88A RCW or home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW.~~

1 ~~Simple care tasks such as blood pressure monitoring, personal care~~
2 ~~service, diabetic insulin device set up, verbal verification of~~
3 ~~insulin dosage for sight-impaired individuals, or other tasks as~~
4 ~~defined by the board are exempted from this requirement.~~

5 ~~(i) "Community-based care settings" includes: Community~~
6 ~~residential programs for people with developmental disabilities,~~
7 ~~certified by the department of social and health services under~~
8 ~~chapter 71A.12 RCW; adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128~~
9 ~~RCW; and assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW.~~
10 ~~Community-based care settings do not include acute care or skilled~~
11 ~~nursing facilities.~~

12 ~~(ii) "In-home care settings" include an individual's place of~~
13 ~~temporary or permanent residence, but does not include acute care or~~
14 ~~skilled nursing facilities, and does not include community-based care~~
15 ~~settings as defined in (c) (i) of this subsection.~~

16 ~~(iii) Delegation of nursing care tasks in community-based care~~
17 ~~settings and in-home care settings is only allowed for individuals~~
18 ~~who have a stable and predictable condition. "Stable and predictable~~
19 ~~condition" means a situation in which the individual's clinical and~~
20 ~~behavioral status is known and does not require the frequent presence~~
21 ~~and evaluation of a registered nurse.~~

22 ~~(iv) The determination of the appropriateness of delegation of a~~
23 ~~nursing task is at the discretion of the registered nurse. Other than~~
24 ~~delegation of the administration of insulin by injection for the~~
25 ~~purpose of caring for individuals with diabetes, the administration~~
26 ~~of medications by injection, sterile procedures, and central line~~
27 ~~maintenance may never be delegated.~~

28 ~~(v) When delegating insulin injections under this section, the~~
29 ~~registered nurse delegator must instruct the individual regarding~~
30 ~~proper injection procedures and the use of insulin, demonstrate~~
31 ~~proper injection procedures, and must supervise and evaluate the~~
32 ~~individual performing the delegated task as required by the board by~~
33 ~~rule. If the registered nurse delegator determines that the~~
34 ~~individual is competent to perform the injection properly and safely,~~
35 ~~supervision and evaluation shall occur at an interval determined by~~
36 ~~the board by rule.~~

37 ~~(vi) (A) The registered nurse shall verify that the nursing~~
38 ~~assistant or home care aide, as the case may be, has completed the~~
39 ~~required core nurse delegation training required in chapter 18.88A or~~
40 ~~18.88B RCW prior to authorizing delegation.~~

1 ~~(B) Before commencing any specific nursing tasks authorized to be~~
2 ~~delegated in this section, a home care aide must be certified~~
3 ~~pursuant to chapter 18.88B RCW and must comply with RCW 18.88B.070.~~

4 ~~(vii))~~ (6) The nurse is accountable for his or her own
5 individual actions in the delegation process. Nurses acting within
6 ~~((the protocols of))~~ their delegation authority are immune from
7 liability for any action performed in the course of their delegation
8 duties.

9 ~~((viii))~~ (7) If trained and delegated the task by a nurse, a
10 nursing assistant-certified or home care aide, licensed under chapter
11 18.88A or 18.88B RCW, respectively, may administer medications,
12 including those that pierce the skin through subcutaneous injections,
13 and may perform capillary blood sticks.

14 (8) Nursing task delegation protocols are not intended to
15 regulate the settings in which delegation may occur, but are intended
16 to ensure that nursing care services have a consistent standard of
17 practice upon which the public and the profession may rely, and to
18 safeguard the authority of the nurse to make independent professional
19 decisions regarding the delegation of a task.

20 ~~((f) The delegation of nursing care tasks only to registered or~~
21 ~~certified nursing assistants under chapter 18.88A RCW or to home care~~
22 ~~aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW may include glucose~~
23 ~~monitoring and testing.~~

24 ~~(g))~~ (9) Education and training provided by a registered nurse
25 to a caregiver who is a parent, guardian, or family member who is
26 designated to provide care for a patient is not considered delegation
27 of nursing care tasks, regardless of whether the caregiver is paid to
28 complete the task.

29 (10)(a) The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

30 ~~((4) Only a person licensed as a registered nurse may instruct~~
31 ~~nurses in technical subjects pertaining to nursing.~~

32 ~~(5) Only a person licensed as a registered nurse may hold herself~~
33 ~~or himself out to the public or designate herself or himself as a~~
34 ~~registered nurse.)~~ (b) By July 1, 2028, the board shall adopt rules
35 to address appropriate delegation parameters.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.79.260 and 2024 c 239 s 15 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) A registered nurse under his or her license may perform for
2 compensation nursing care, as that term is usually understood, to
3 individuals with illnesses, injuries, or disabilities.

4 (2) A registered nurse may, at or under the general direction of
5 a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, osteopathic physician and
6 surgeon, naturopathic physician, optometrist, podiatric physician and
7 surgeon, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or
8 midwife acting within the scope of his or her license, administer
9 medications, treatments, tests, and inoculations, whether or not the
10 severing or penetrating of tissues is involved and whether or not a
11 degree of independent judgment and skill is required. Such direction
12 must be for acts which are within the scope of registered nursing
13 practice.

14 (3) A registered nurse may delegate tasks (~~(of nursing care)~~) to
15 other individuals in any setting where the registered nurse
16 determines that it is in the best interest of the patient and within
17 the nurse's scope of practice.

18 ~~((a))~~ The delegating nurse shall:

19 ~~((i))~~ (a) Determine the competency of the individual to perform
20 the tasks, including verifying certification or documentation where
21 required by rule or law;

22 ~~((ii))~~ (b) Evaluate the stability of the patient and the
23 appropriateness of the delegation; and

24 ~~((iii))~~ (c) Supervise the actions of the person performing the
25 delegated task~~(; and~~

26 ~~(iv) Delegate only those tasks that are within the registered~~
27 ~~nurse's scope of practice.~~

28 ~~(b) A registered nurse, working for a home health or hospice~~
29 ~~agency regulated under chapter 70.127 RCW, may delegate the~~
30 ~~application, instillation, or insertion of medications to a~~
31 ~~registered or certified nursing assistant under a plan of care.~~

32 ~~(c) Except as authorized in (b) or (e) of this subsection, a~~
33 ~~registered nurse may not delegate the administration of medications.~~
34 ~~Except as authorized in (e) or (f) of this subsection, a registered~~
35 ~~nurse may not delegate acts requiring substantial skill, and may not~~
36 ~~delegate piercing or severing of tissues. Acts that require nursing~~
37 ~~judgment shall not be delegated.~~

38 ~~(d))~~ .

39 (4) Except as authorized in subsection (7) of this section, a
40 registered nurse may not delegate the administration of medications,

1 tasks involving piercing or severing of tissues, or acts that require
2 substantial skill. Acts that require nursing judgment may not be
3 delegated.

4 (5) No person may coerce a nurse into compromising patient safety
5 by requiring the nurse to delegate if the nurse determines that it is
6 inappropriate to do so. Nurses shall not be subject to any employer
7 reprisal or disciplinary action by the board for refusing to delegate
8 tasks or refusing to provide the required training for delegation if
9 the nurse determines delegation may compromise patient safety.

10 ~~((e) For delegation in community-based care settings or in-home~~
11 ~~care settings, a registered nurse may delegate nursing care tasks~~
12 ~~only to registered or certified nursing assistants under chapter~~
13 ~~18.88A RCW or home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW.~~
14 ~~Simple care tasks such as blood pressure monitoring, personal care~~
15 ~~service, diabetic insulin device set up, verbal verification of~~
16 ~~insulin dosage for sight-impaired individuals, or other tasks as~~
17 ~~defined by the board are exempted from this requirement.~~

18 ~~(i) "Community-based care settings" includes: Community~~
19 ~~residential programs for people with developmental disabilities,~~
20 ~~certified by the department of social and health services under~~
21 ~~chapter 71A.12 RCW; adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128~~
22 ~~RCW; and assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW.~~
23 ~~Community-based care settings do not include acute care or skilled~~
24 ~~nursing facilities.~~

25 ~~(ii) "In-home care settings" include an individual's place of~~
26 ~~temporary or permanent residence, but does not include acute care or~~
27 ~~skilled nursing facilities, and does not include community-based care~~
28 ~~settings as defined in (e) (i) of this subsection.~~

29 ~~(iii) Delegation of nursing care tasks in community-based care~~
30 ~~settings and in-home care settings is only allowed for individuals~~
31 ~~who have a stable and predictable condition. "Stable and predictable~~
32 ~~condition" means a situation in which the individual's clinical and~~
33 ~~behavioral status is known and does not require the frequent presence~~
34 ~~and evaluation of a registered nurse.~~

35 ~~(iv) The determination of the appropriateness of delegation of a~~
36 ~~nursing task is at the discretion of the registered nurse. Other than~~
37 ~~delegation of the administration of insulin by injection for the~~
38 ~~purpose of caring for individuals with diabetes, the administration~~
39 ~~of medications by injection, sterile procedures, and central line~~
40 ~~maintenance may never be delegated.~~

1 ~~(v) When delegating insulin injections under this section, the~~
2 ~~registered nurse delegator must instruct the individual regarding~~
3 ~~proper injection procedures and the use of insulin, demonstrate~~
4 ~~proper injection procedures, and must supervise and evaluate the~~
5 ~~individual performing the delegated task as required by the board by~~
6 ~~rule. If the registered nurse delegator determines that the~~
7 ~~individual is competent to perform the injection properly and safely,~~
8 ~~supervision and evaluation shall occur at an interval determined by~~
9 ~~the board by rule.~~

10 ~~(vi) (A) The registered nurse shall verify that the nursing~~
11 ~~assistant or home care aide, as the case may be, has completed the~~
12 ~~required core nurse delegation training required in chapter 18.88A or~~
13 ~~18.88B RCW prior to authorizing delegation.~~

14 ~~(B) Before commencing any specific nursing tasks authorized to be~~
15 ~~delegated in this section, a home care aide must be certified~~
16 ~~pursuant to chapter 18.88B RCW and must comply with RCW 18.88B.070.~~

17 ~~(vii))~~ (6) The nurse is accountable for his or her own
18 individual actions in the delegation process. Nurses acting within
19 ((the protocols of)) their delegation authority are immune from
20 liability for any action performed in the course of their delegation
21 duties.

22 ~~((viii))~~ (7) If trained and delegated the task by a nurse, a
23 nursing assistant-certified or home care aide, licensed under chapter
24 18.88A or 18.88B RCW, respectively, may administer medications,
25 including those that pierce the skin through subcutaneous injections,
26 and may perform capillary blood sticks.

27 (8) Nursing task delegation protocols are not intended to
28 regulate the settings in which delegation may occur, but are intended
29 to ensure that nursing care services have a consistent standard of
30 practice upon which the public and the profession may rely, and to
31 safeguard the authority of the nurse to make independent professional
32 decisions regarding the delegation of a task.

33 ~~((f) The delegation of nursing care tasks only to registered or~~
34 ~~certified nursing assistants under chapter 18.88A RCW or to home care~~
35 ~~aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW may include glucose~~
36 ~~monitoring and testing.~~

37 ~~(g))~~ (9) Education and training provided by a registered nurse
38 to a caregiver who is a parent, guardian, or family member who is
39 designated to provide care for a patient is not considered delegation

1 of nursing care tasks, regardless of whether the caregiver is paid to
2 complete the task.

3 (10)(a) The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

4 ~~((4) Only a person licensed as a registered nurse may instruct~~
5 ~~nurses in technical subjects pertaining to nursing.~~

6 ~~(5) Only a person licensed as a registered nurse may hold herself~~
7 ~~or himself out to the public or designate herself or himself as a~~
8 ~~registered nurse.)) (b) By July 1, 2028, the board shall adopt rules~~

9 to address appropriate delegation parameters.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.88A.210 and 2025 c 58 s 5041 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) A nursing assistant ~~((meeting the requirements of this~~
13 ~~section who provides care to individuals in community-based care~~
14 ~~settings or in-home care settings, as defined in RCW 18.79.260(3),))~~
15 may accept delegation of nursing care tasks by a ~~((registered))~~ nurse
16 as provided in RCW 18.79.260 ~~((3))~~.

17 (2) ~~((For the purposes of this section, "nursing assistant" means~~
18 ~~a nursing assistant-registered or a nursing assistant-certified.~~
19 ~~Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of~~
20 ~~nurses to delegate nursing tasks to other persons, including licensed~~
21 ~~practical nurses, as authorized by law.~~

22 ~~(3)(a) Before commencing any specific nursing care tasks~~
23 ~~authorized under this chapter, the nursing assistant must (i) provide~~
24 ~~to the delegating nurse a certificate of completion issued by the~~
25 ~~department of social and health services indicating the completion of~~
26 ~~basic core nurse delegation training, (ii) be regulated by the~~
27 ~~department of health pursuant to this chapter, subject to the uniform~~
28 ~~disciplinary act under chapter 18.130 RCW, and (iii) meet any~~
29 ~~additional training requirements identified by the board. Exceptions~~
30 ~~to these training requirements must adhere to RCW~~
31 ~~18.79.260(3)(e)(vi).~~

32 ~~(b) In addition to meeting the requirements of (a) of this~~
33 ~~subsection, before commencing the care of individuals with diabetes~~
34 ~~that involves administration of insulin by injection, the nursing~~
35 ~~assistant must provide to the delegating nurse a certificate of~~
36 ~~completion issued by the department of social and health services~~
37 ~~indicating completion of specialized diabetes nurse delegation~~
38 ~~training. The training must include, but is not limited to,~~
39 ~~instruction regarding diabetes, insulin, sliding scale insulin~~

1 ~~orders, and proper injection procedures.)~~ Nursing assistants are
2 accountable for their own individual actions in the delegation
3 process. Nursing assistants accurately following delegation
4 instructions from a nurse are immune from liability regarding the
5 performance of the delegated duties.

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.88A.210 and 2025 c 58 s 5041 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) A nursing assistant (~~meeting the requirements of this~~
9 ~~section who provides care to individuals in community-based care~~
10 ~~settings or in-home care settings, as defined in RCW 18.79.260(3),~~)
11 may accept delegation of nursing care tasks by a (~~registered~~) nurse
12 as provided in RCW 18.79.260(~~(3)~~).

13 (2) (~~For the purposes of this section, "nursing assistant" means~~
14 ~~a nursing assistant registered or a nursing assistant-certified.~~
15 ~~Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of~~
16 ~~nurses to delegate nursing tasks to other persons, including licensed~~
17 ~~practical nurses, as authorized by law.~~

18 ~~(3) (a) Before commencing any specific nursing care tasks~~
19 ~~authorized under this chapter, the nursing assistant must (i) provide~~
20 ~~to the delegating nurse a certificate of completion issued by the~~
21 ~~department of social and health services indicating the completion of~~
22 ~~basic core nurse delegation training, (ii) be regulated by the~~
23 ~~department of health pursuant to this chapter, subject to the uniform~~
24 ~~disciplinary act under chapter 18.130 RCW, and (iii) meet any~~
25 ~~additional training requirements identified by the board. Exceptions~~
26 ~~to these training requirements must adhere to RCW~~
27 ~~18.79.260(3)(e)(vi).~~

28 ~~(b) In addition to meeting the requirements of (a) of this~~
29 ~~subsection, before commencing the care of individuals with diabetes~~
30 ~~that involves administration of insulin by injection, the nursing~~
31 ~~assistant must provide to the delegating nurse a certificate of~~
32 ~~completion issued by the department of social and health services~~
33 ~~indicating completion of specialized diabetes nurse delegation~~
34 ~~training. The training must include, but is not limited to,~~
35 ~~instruction regarding diabetes, insulin, sliding scale insulin~~
36 ~~orders, and proper injection procedures.)~~ Nursing assistants are
37 accountable for their own individual actions in the delegation
38 process. Nursing assistants accurately following delegation

1 instructions from a nurse are immune from liability regarding the
2 performance of the delegated duties.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.88A.230 and 2003 c 140 s 6 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) (~~The nursing assistant~~) Nursing assistants shall be
6 accountable for their own individual actions in the delegation
7 process. Nursing assistants following (~~written~~) delegation
8 instructions from (~~registered~~) nurses performed in the course of
9 their accurately written, delegated duties shall be immune from
10 liability.

11 (2) Nursing assistants shall not be subject to (~~any~~):

12 (a) Any employer reprisal or disciplinary action by the secretary
13 for refusing to accept delegation of a nursing task based on patient
14 safety issues. No (~~community-based care setting as defined in RCW~~
15 18.79.260(3)(e), or in-home services agency as defined in RCW
16 70.127.010,)) facility or employer may discriminate or retaliate in
17 any manner against a person because the person made a complaint or
18 cooperated in the investigation of a complaint.

19 (b) Liability, reprisal, or disciplinary action when
20 administering medications in an emergency response situation if the
21 patient has a prescribed and available medication for that specific
22 type of emergency event.

23 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.88B.070 and 2025 c 58 s 5042 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The legislature recognizes that nurses have been successfully
26 delegating nursing care tasks to family members and others for many
27 years. The opportunity for a nurse to delegate nursing care tasks to
28 home care aides certified under this chapter may enhance the
29 viability and quality of health care services in community-based care
30 settings and in-home care settings to allow individuals to live as
31 independently as possible with maximum safeguards.

32 (2) (~~(a)~~) A certified home care aide who wishes to perform a
33 nurse delegated task pursuant to RCW 18.79.260 must complete nurse
34 delegation core training under chapter 18.88A RCW before the home
35 care aide may be delegated a nursing care task by a registered nurse
36 delegator. (~~Before administering insulin, a home care aide must also~~
37 ~~complete the specialized diabetes nurse delegation training under~~

1 ~~chapter 18.88A RCW. Before commencing any specific nursing care tasks~~
2 ~~authorized under RCW 18.79.260, the home care aide must:~~

3 ~~(i) Provide to the delegating nurse a transcript or certificate~~
4 ~~of successful completion of training issued by an approved instructor~~
5 ~~or approved training entity indicating the completion of basic core~~
6 ~~nurse delegation training; and~~

7 ~~(ii) Meet any additional training requirements mandated by the~~
8 ~~state board of nursing. Any exception to these training requirements~~
9 ~~is subject to RCW 18.79.260(3)(e)(vi).~~

10 ~~(b) In addition to meeting the requirements of (a) of this~~
11 ~~subsection, before providing delegated nursing care tasks that~~
12 ~~involve administration of insulin by injection to individuals with~~
13 ~~diabetes, the home care aide must provide to the delegating nurse a~~
14 ~~transcript or certificate of successful completion of training issued~~
15 ~~by an approved instructor or approved training entity indicating~~
16 ~~completion of specialized diabetes nurse delegation training. The~~
17 ~~training must include, but is not limited to, instruction regarding~~
18 ~~diabetes, insulin, sliding scale insulin orders, and proper injection~~
19 ~~procedures.))~~

20 ~~(3) ((The home)) Home care ((aide is)) aides are accountable for~~
21 ~~((his or her)) their own individual actions in the delegation~~
22 ~~process. Home care aides accurately following ((written)) delegation~~
23 ~~instructions from a ((registered)) nurse are immune from liability~~
24 ~~regarding the performance of the delegated duties.~~

25 ~~(4) Home care aides are not subject to ((any)):~~

26 ~~(a) Any employer reprisal or disciplinary action by the secretary~~
27 ~~for refusing to accept delegation of a nursing care task based on his~~
28 ~~or her concerns about patient safety issues. No ((provider of a~~
29 ~~community-based care setting as defined in RCW 18.79.260, or in-home~~
30 ~~services agency as defined in RCW 70.127.010,)) facility or employer~~
31 ~~may discriminate or retaliate in any manner against a person because~~
32 ~~the person made a complaint about the nurse delegation process or~~
33 ~~cooperated in the investigation of the complaint.~~

34 ~~(b) Liability, reprisal, or disciplinary action when~~
35 ~~administering medications in an emergency response situation if the~~
36 ~~patient has a prescribed and available medication for that specific~~
37 ~~type of emergency event.~~

38 **Sec. 7.** RCW 70.127.010 and 2024 c 121 s 10 are each amended to
39 read as follows:

1 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
2 this section apply throughout this chapter.

3 (1) "Administrator" means an individual responsible for managing
4 the operation of an agency.

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

6 (3) "Director of clinical services" means an individual
7 responsible for nursing, therapy, nutritional, social, and related
8 services that support the plan of care provided by in-home health and
9 hospice agencies.

10 (4) "Family" means individuals who are important to, and
11 designated by, the patient or client and who need not be relatives.

12 (5) "Home care agency" means a person administering or providing
13 home care services directly or through a contract arrangement to
14 individuals in places of temporary or permanent residence. A home
15 care agency (~~(that provides delegated)~~) where nurses delegate tasks
16 of nursing under RCW 18.79.260(~~((3)(e))~~) is not considered a home
17 health agency for the purposes of this chapter.

18 (6) "Home care services" means nonmedical services and assistance
19 provided to ill, disabled, or vulnerable individuals that enable them
20 to remain in their residences. Home care services include, but are
21 not limited to: Personal care such as assistance with dressing,
22 feeding, and personal hygiene to facilitate self-care; homemaker
23 assistance with household tasks, such as housekeeping, shopping, meal
24 planning and preparation, and transportation; respite care assistance
25 and support provided to the family; or other nonmedical services or
26 delegated tasks of nursing under RCW 18.79.260(~~((3)(e))~~).

27 (7) "Home health agency" means a person administering or
28 providing two or more home health services directly or through a
29 contract arrangement to individuals in places of temporary or
30 permanent residence. A person administering or providing nursing
31 services only may elect to be designated a home health agency for
32 purposes of licensure.

33 (8) "Home health services" means services provided to ill,
34 disabled, or vulnerable individuals. These services include but are
35 not limited to nursing services, home health aide services, physical
36 therapy services, occupational therapy services, speech therapy
37 services, respiratory therapy services, nutritional services, medical
38 social services, and home medical supplies or equipment services.

39 (9) "Home health aide services" means services provided by a home
40 health agency or a hospice agency under the supervision of a

1 registered nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or
2 speech therapist who is employed by or under contract to a home
3 health or hospice agency. Such care includes ambulation and exercise,
4 assistance with self-administered medications, reporting changes in
5 patients' conditions and needs, completing appropriate records, and
6 personal care or homemaker services.

7 (10) "Home medical supplies" or "equipment services" means
8 diagnostic, treatment, and monitoring equipment and supplies provided
9 for the direct care of individuals within a plan of care.

10 (11) "Hospice agency" means a person administering or providing
11 hospice services directly or through a contract arrangement to
12 individuals in places of temporary or permanent residence under the
13 direction of an interdisciplinary team composed of at least a nurse,
14 social worker, physician, spiritual counselor, and a volunteer.

15 (12) "Hospice care center" means a homelike, noninstitutional
16 facility where hospice services are provided, and that meets the
17 requirements for operation under RCW 70.127.280.

18 (13) "Hospice services" means symptom and pain management
19 provided to a terminally ill individual, and emotional, spiritual,
20 and bereavement support for the individual and family in a place of
21 temporary or permanent residence, and may include the provision of
22 home health and home care services for the terminally ill individual.

23 (14) "Immediate jeopardy" means a situation in which the in-home
24 services agency's noncompliance with one or more statutory or
25 regulatory requirements has placed the health and safety of patients
26 in its care at risk for serious injury, serious harm, serious
27 impairment, or death.

28 (15) "In-home services agency" means a person licensed to
29 administer or provide home health, home care, hospice services, or
30 hospice care center services directly or through a contract
31 arrangement to individuals in a place of temporary or permanent
32 residence.

33 (16) "Person" means any individual, business, firm, partnership,
34 corporation, company, association, joint stock association, public or
35 private agency or organization, or the legal successor thereof that
36 employs or contracts with two or more individuals.

37 (17) "Plan of care" means a written document based on assessment
38 of individual needs that identifies services to meet these needs.

1 (18) "Quality improvement" means reviewing and evaluating
2 appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided under this
3 chapter.

4 (19) "Service area" means the geographic area in which the
5 department has given prior approval to a licensee to provide home
6 health, hospice, or home care services.

7 (20) "Social worker" means a person with a degree from a social
8 work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW
9 18.320.010 or who meets qualifications provided in 42 C.F.R. Sec.
10 418.114 as it existed on January 1, 2012.

11 (21) "Survey" means an inspection conducted by the department to
12 evaluate and monitor an agency's compliance with this chapter.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Section 1 of this act expires June 30,
14 2027.

15 (2) Section 3 of this act expires July 1, 2026.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) Section 2 of this act takes effect
17 June 30, 2027.

18 (2) Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1, 2026.

19 (3) Section 6 of this act takes effect July 1, 2028.

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