

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1073

C 134 L 23
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning medical assistants.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Harris, Tharinger, Ryu, Leavitt, Macri, Caldier, Santos and Ormsby).

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care

Background:

The Department of Health licenses several different types of medical assistants, including medical assistants-certified and medical assistants-phlebotomist.

Certification.

A person meets the qualifications for certification as a medical assistant-certified if they satisfactorily complete a medical assistant training program approved by the Secretary of Health (Secretary), pass an examination approved by the Secretary, and meet any additional qualifications established by the Secretary in rule. A person who has completed the other requirements but has not passed the examination may practice as a medical assistant-certified under an interim permit. The interim permit expires upon passage of the examination or after one year, whichever occurs first, and may not be renewed.

A person meets the qualifications for certification as a medical assistant-phlebotomist or a medical assistant-hemodialysis technician if they meet the qualifications adopted by the Secretary in rule.

Authorized Duties and Supervision.

A medical assistant-certified may perform authorized duties only when delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care practitioner. For tasks requiring supervision, the supervising health care practitioner must generally be physically present and immediately available in the facility. When administering intravenous injections for diagnostic or

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therapeutic agents, a medical assistant-certified must be under the direct visual supervision of a health care practitioner and meet certain minimum standards established by the Secretary in rule.

A medical assistant-registered may perform authorized duties only when delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care practitioner. Authorized duties include preparing patients for, and assisting with, routine and specialty examinations, procedures, treatments, and minor office surgeries utilizing no more than local anesthetic.

Summary:

Certification.

An interim permit for a medical assistant-certified expires upon passage of the examination and issuance of a certification, or after one year, whichever occurs first.

An applicant for a medical assistant-phlebotomist credential or a medical assistant-hemodialysis technician credential who has completed the applicant's training program is allowed to work, under the level of supervision required for the training program, for a period of up to 180 days after filing their application.

Authorized Duties and Supervision.

A health care practitioner supervising a medical assistant is not required to be present during procedures to administer vaccines or obtain specimens for or perform diagnostic testing.

A medical assistant-certified may establish intravenous lines for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, without administering medications, under the supervision of a health care practitioner if the medical assistant-certified meets minimum standards established by the Secretary in rule.

A medical assistant-registered may perform diagnostic testing and electrocardiography and prepare patients for, and assist with, routine and specialty examinations, procedures, treatments, and minor office surgeries, including those with minimal sedation. A medical-assistant registered may also administer intramuscular injections for diagnostic or therapeutic agents under the immediate supervision of a health care practitioner if the medical assistant-registered meets minimum standards established by the Secretary. A medical assistant-registered may administer medications for intramuscular injections if the drugs are:

- administered only by unit or single dosage, or by a dosage calculated and verified by a health care practitioner;
- limited to legend drugs, vaccines, and Schedule III through V controlled substances as authorized by a health care practitioner; and
- administered pursuant to a written order from a health care practitioner.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0
Senate	47	0

Effective: April 20, 2023