
SENATE BILL 5144

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser and Schlicher

Read first time 01/21/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1 AN ACT Relating to medical assistants; amending RCW 18.360.050; and
2 adding a new section to chapter 18.360 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.360.050 and 2012 c 153 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) A medical assistant-certified may perform the following duties
7 delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care practitioner:

8 (a) Fundamental procedures:

9 (i) Wrapping items for autoclaving;

10 (ii) Procedures for sterilizing equipment and instruments;

11 (iii) Disposing of biohazardous materials; and

12 (iv) Practicing standard precautions.

13 (b) Clinical procedures:

14 (i) Performing aseptic procedures in a setting other than a
15 hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW;

16 (ii) Preparing of and assisting in sterile procedures in a setting
17 other than a hospital under chapter 70.41 RCW;

18 (iii) Taking vital signs;

19 (iv) Preparing patients for examination;

1 (v) Capillary blood withdrawal, venipuncture, arterial blood
2 withdrawal, and intradermal, subcutaneous, and intramuscular
3 injections; and

4 (vi) Observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms.

5 (c) Specimen collection:

6 (i) Capillary puncture (~~(and)~~), venipuncture, and arterial invasive
7 procedures for blood withdrawal;

8 (ii) Obtaining specimens for microbiological testing; and

9 (iii) Instructing patients in proper technique to collect urine and
10 fecal specimens.

11 (d) Diagnostic testing:

12 (i) Electrocardiography;

13 (ii) Respiratory testing; (~~and~~)

14 (iii) Tests waived under the federal clinical laboratory
15 improvement amendments program on July 1, 2013. The department shall
16 periodically update the tests authorized under this subsection (1)(d)
17 based on changes made by the federal clinical laboratory improvement
18 amendments program; and

19 (iv) Moderate complexity tests if the medical assistant-certified
20 meets standards for personnel qualifications and responsibilities in
21 compliance with federal regulation for nonwaived testing.

22 (e) Patient care:

23 (i) Telephone and in-person screening limited to intake and
24 gathering of information without requiring the exercise of judgment
25 based on clinical knowledge;

26 (ii) Obtaining vital signs;

27 (iii) Obtaining and recording patient history;

28 (iv) Preparing and maintaining examination and treatment areas;

29 (v) Preparing patients for, and assisting with, routine and
30 specialty examinations, procedures, treatments, and minor office
31 surgeries;

32 (vi) Maintaining medication and immunization records; and

33 (vii) Screening and following up on test results as directed by a
34 health care practitioner.

35 (f)(i) Administering medications. A medical assistant-certified
36 may only administer medications if the drugs are:

37 (A) Administered only by unit or single dosage, or by a dosage

1 calculated and verified by a health care practitioner. For purposes of
2 this section, a combination vaccine shall be considered a unit dose;

3 (B) Limited to legend drugs, vaccines, and Schedule III-V
4 controlled substances as authorized by a health care practitioner under
5 the scope of his or her license and consistent with rules adopted by
6 the secretary under (f)(ii) of this subsection; and

7 (C) Administered pursuant to a written order from a health care
8 practitioner.

9 (ii) The secretary may, by rule, limit the drugs that may be
10 administered under this subsection. The rules adopted under this
11 subsection must limit the drugs based on risk, class, or route.

12 (g) Intravenous injections. A medical assistant-certified may
13 administer intravenous injections for diagnostic or therapeutic agents
14 if he or she meets minimum standards established by the secretary in
15 rule. The minimum standards must be substantially similar to the
16 qualifications for category D and F health care assistants as they
17 exist on July 1, 2013.

18 (2) A medical assistant-hemodialysis technician may perform
19 hemodialysis when delegated and supervised by a health care
20 practitioner. A medical assistant-hemodialysis technician may also
21 administer drugs and oxygen to a patient when delegated and supervised
22 by a health care practitioner and pursuant to rules adopted by the
23 secretary.

24 (3) A medical assistant-phlebotomist may perform the following
25 duties delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care
26 practitioner:

27 (a) Capillary, venous, or arterial invasive procedures for blood
28 withdrawal when delegated and supervised by a health care practitioner
29 and pursuant to rules adopted by the secretary;

30 (b) Tests waived under the federal clinical laboratory improvement
31 amendments program on July 1, 2013. The department shall periodically
32 update the tests authorized under subsection (1)(d) of this section
33 based on changes made by the federal clinical laboratory improvement
34 amendments program.

35 (c) Moderate complexity tests if the medical assistant-phlebotomist
36 meets standards for personnel qualifications and responsibilities in
37 compliance with federal regulation for nonwaived testing.

1 (4) A medical assistant-registered may perform the following duties
2 delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care practitioner:

3 (a) Fundamental procedures:

4 (i) Wrapping items for autoclaving;

5 (ii) Procedures for sterilizing equipment and instruments;

6 (iii) Disposing of biohazardous materials; and

7 (iv) Practicing standard precautions.

8 (b) Clinical procedures:

9 (i) Preparing for sterile procedures;

10 (ii) Taking vital signs;

11 (iii) Preparing patients for examination; and

12 (iv) Observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms.

13 (c) Specimen collection:

14 (i) Obtaining specimens for microbiological testing; and

15 (ii) Instructing patients in proper technique to collect urine and
16 fecal specimens.

17 (d) Patient care:

18 (i) Telephone and in-person screening limited to intake and
19 gathering of information without requiring the exercise of judgment
20 based on clinical knowledge;

21 (ii) Obtaining vital signs;

22 (iii) Obtaining and recording patient history;

23 (iv) Preparing and maintaining examination and treatment areas;

24 (v) Maintaining medication and immunization records; and

25 (vi) Screening and following up on test results as directed by a
26 health care practitioner.

27 (e) Tests waived under the federal clinical laboratory improvement
28 amendments program on July 1, 2013. The department shall periodically
29 update the tests authorized under subsection (1)(d) of this section
30 based on changes made by the federal clinical laboratory improvement
31 amendments program.

32 (f) Moderate complexity tests if the medical assistant-registered
33 meets standards for personnel qualifications and responsibilities in
34 compliance with federal regulation for nonwaived testing.

35 (g) Administering vaccines, including combination vaccines.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 18.360 RCW
37 to read as follows:

1 An applicant who has completed a registered apprenticeship program
2 administered by a department of the state of Washington satisfies the
3 training or experience requirements of this chapter unless the
4 secretary determines that the apprenticeship program training or
5 experience is not substantially equivalent to the standards of this
6 state.

--- END ---