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SENATE BILL 5455

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Brandland, Rockefeller, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/22/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to dental hygiene; and amending RCW 18.29.056 and  
2 18.29.220.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.29.056 and 2007 c 270 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1)(a) Subject to RCW 18.29.230 and (~~(e)~~) (e) of this subsection,  
7 dental hygienists licensed under this chapter with two years' practical  
8 clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the preceding five  
9 years may be employed (~~(e)~~), retained, or contracted by health care  
10 facilities to perform authorized dental hygiene operations and services  
11 without dental supervision(~~(e)~~).

12            (b) Subject to RCW 18.29.230 and (e) of this subsection, dental  
13 hygienists licensed under this chapter with two years' practical  
14 clinical experience with a licensed dentist within the preceding five  
15 years may perform authorized dental hygiene operations and services  
16 without dental supervision under a lease agreement.

17            (c) Dental hygienists performing operations and services under (a)  
18 or (b) of this subsection are limited to removal of deposits and stains  
19 from the surfaces of the teeth, application of topical preventive or

1 prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing restorations, and  
2 performance of root planing and soft-tissue curettage, but shall not  
3 perform injections of anesthetic agents, administration of nitrous  
4 oxide, or diagnosis for dental treatment.

5 ~~((b))~~ (d) The performance of dental hygiene operations and  
6 services in health care facilities shall be limited to patients,  
7 students, and residents of the facilities.

8 ~~((c))~~ (e) A dental hygienist employed ~~((or))~~, retained, or  
9 contracted to perform services under this section or otherwise  
10 performing services under a lease agreement under this section in a  
11 senior center must, before providing services:

12 (i) Enter into a written practice arrangement plan, approved by the  
13 department, with a dentist licensed in this state, under which the  
14 dentist will provide off-site supervision of the dental services  
15 provided. This agreement does not create an obligation for the dentist  
16 to accept referrals of patients receiving services under the program;

17 (ii) Collect data on the patients treated by dental hygienists  
18 under the program, including age, treatments rendered, insurance  
19 coverage, if any, and patient referral to dentists ~~((This data must~~  
20 ~~be submitted to the department of health at the end of each annual~~  
21 ~~quarter, commencing October 1, 2007))~~; and

22 (iii) Obtain information from the patient's primary health care  
23 provider about any health conditions of the patient that would be  
24 relevant to the provision of preventive dental care. The information  
25 may be obtained by the dental hygienist's direct contact with the  
26 provider or through a written document from the provider that the  
27 patient presents to the dental hygienist.

28 ~~((d))~~ (f) For dental planning and dental treatment, dental  
29 hygienists shall refer patients to licensed dentists.

30 (2) For the purposes of this section:

31 (a) "Health care facilities" are limited to hospitals; nursing  
32 homes; senior centers; home health agencies; group homes serving the  
33 elderly, individuals with disabilities, and juveniles; state-operated  
34 institutions under the jurisdiction of the department of social and  
35 health services or the department of corrections; and federal, state,  
36 and local public health facilities, state or federally funded community  
37 and migrant health centers, and tribal clinics. ~~((Until July 1, 2009,~~  
38 ~~"health care facilities" also include senior centers.))~~

1 (b) "Senior center" means a multipurpose community facility  
2 operated and maintained by a nonprofit organization or local government  
3 for the organization and provision of ~~((a broad spectrum of))~~ one or  
4 more of the following: Health, social, nutritional, ~~((and))~~  
5 educational services, and recreational activities for persons ~~((sixty))~~  
6 fifty years of age or older.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.29.220 and 2007 c 270 s 2 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 For low-income, rural, and other at-risk populations and in  
10 coordination with local public health jurisdictions and local oral  
11 health coalitions, a dental hygienist licensed in this state may assess  
12 for and apply sealants and apply fluoride varnishes, and may remove  
13 deposits and stains from the surfaces of teeth ~~((until July 1, 2009,))~~  
14 in community-based sealant programs carried out in schools:

15 (1) Without attending the department's school sealant endorsement  
16 program if the dental hygienist was licensed as of April 19, 2001; or

17 (2) If the dental hygienist is school sealant endorsed under RCW  
18 43.70.650.

19 A hygienist providing services under this section must collect data  
20 on patients treated, including age, treatment rendered, methods of  
21 reimbursement for treatment, evidence of coordination with local public  
22 health jurisdictions and local oral health coalitions, and patient  
23 referrals to dentists. ~~((These [This] data must be submitted to the  
24 department of health at the end of each annual quarter, commencing  
25 October 1, 2007.))~~

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