
SENATE BILL 6223

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Pflug, Parlette, Kohl-Welles, and Franklin

Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing emergency medical technicians to
2 administer glucagon in emergency situations; adding a new section to
3 chapter 18.73 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that hypoglycemia is
6 a severe medical problem for people with diabetes. Maintaining control
7 of blood sugar levels requires disciplined self-management, a challenge
8 especially for young children, adolescents, and the elderly.
9 Hypoglycemic episodes can have catastrophic outcomes, resulting in
10 seizure, brain damage, and death. Rapid and appropriate administration
11 of oral glucose can counteract a severe hypoglycemic episode, and may
12 make the difference between life and death.

13 The legislature finds that the administration of oral glucose is
14 not indicated in certain situations, and the administration of glucagon
15 is the preferred method of treatment. The legislature further finds
16 that some situations may arise when glucagon must be administered by
17 injection to save a person's life. It is paramount that emergency
18 response personnel receive appropriate training on the use of emergency
19 glucagon pens to treat severe hypoglycemia.

1 The purpose of this act is to authorize emergency medical
2 technicians to administer glucagon in emergency situations and to have
3 glucagon emergency kits available in their emergency care supplies.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.73 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) All of the state's ambulance and aid services shall make
7 glucagon emergency kits available to their emergency medical
8 technicians in their emergency care supplies. The emergency medical
9 technician may administer glucagon.

10 (2) Nothing in this section authorizes the administration of
11 glucagon by a first responder.

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