
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6447

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Lias, Kuderer, Rivers, Dhingra, Randall, Wilson, C., and Saldaña)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a coprescription of opioid overdose
2 reversal medication; adding a new section to chapter 69.41 RCW; and
3 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 Washington has
6 made great strides in recent years to address the opioid crisis in
7 our state. However, there continue to be too many deaths from opioid
8 overdose in communities across the state. The use of opioid
9 antagonists such as naloxone reverses the effects of opioids and can
10 be life-saving when an opioid overdose occurs.

11 The legislature intends to standardize naloxone coprescription
12 practices to ensure consistency between the prescribing professions
13 and alignment with nationally articulated standards of care.

14 The legislature intends that these changes will increase the
15 number of opioid prescribed patients who have access to a life-saving
16 overdose intervention in the event of an emergency with the goal of
17 reducing the likelihood that an opioid overdose event for a given
18 patient may lead to fatality or long-term adverse health outcomes and
19 the likelihood that patients and their families face long-term
20 financial and emotional burden due to an opioid overdose event.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 69.41
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) A practitioner should provide a current prescription or
4 confirm the patient has a current prescription for an opioid overdose
5 reversal medication when the practitioner has prescribed the patient
6 an opioid at or in excess of a fifty morphine milligram equivalent.

7 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
8 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (a) "Morphine milligram equivalent" means the conversion factor
10 used to calculate the strength of an opioid using morphine dosage as
11 the comparative unit of measure.

12 (b) "Opioid overdose reversal medication" means any drug used to
13 reverse an opioid overdose that binds to opioid receptors and blocks
14 or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors.

15 (c) "Practitioner" has the meaning provided in RCW 69.50.101.

16 (3) This section does not apply to opioid prescriptions issued
17 for the treatment of pain associated with terminal cancer or other
18 terminal diseases, or for palliative, hospice, or other end-of-life
19 care.

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