

Legislative Update: Fall 2012

State Legislature

HB 1486: Allows Nurse Practitioners who hold a license for prescribing from another state to have their clients' prescriptions filled in Washington. This is directly related to the Institute of Medicines report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, which stipulates, among other tenets, that nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.

HB 2186: Added language to the existing law, under RCW 18.79.040(1)(e), that allows Licensed Midwives to work with nurses. The law now states "The executing of medical regimen as prescribed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, osteopathic physician and surgeon, podiatric physician and surgeon, physician assistant, osteopathic physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner, *or as directed by a licensed midwife within his or her scope of practice.*" Settings which this may affect include the hospital, pharmacy, and Birthing Centers.

HB 2366: Requires the Secretary of Health to submit a report about suicide prevention methodologies to the State Legislature by December 2013. The law recognizes the amount of people affected by suicide and requires certain health professionals to receive education on prevention.

HB 2247: Expands the types of medications nurses in K-12 school districts may delegate to unlicensed school personnel. Currently, only oral medications are allowed, but with enactment of the new law, eye drops, ear drops, and topical medications are now permitted to be administered by UAP.

HB 2314: Defines and describes the certification process of home care aides. This legislation will continue to be expanded in the coming year, as the law further defines the training, examination, and certification requirements for home care aides (different from Certified Nurses Aid). To comment on the language for this bill, send comments to the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission.

HB 2473: Allows certified nursing assistants to administer medications in a Nursing Home setting. An endorsement will be offered on the NAC's license after completion of education and certification. To comment on the language for this bill, send comments to the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission.

HB 6237: This legislation defines four categories of Medical Assistants (M.A.): M.A., certified; M.A., registered; M.A., Phlebotomist; and M.A., Hemodialysis Technician. This allows further clarification of education, certification, registration, and examination requirements for all medical assistants.

Reference

Meyer, P. (2012). Executive Director Legislative Report. *Washington Nursing Commission News* 6(12), 8-9.