



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

**ESSB 6237 – Medical Assistants
Rules Workshop
August 28, 2012**

Estimated Timeline of Rulemaking Process

- July 3, 2012 – Initial notice to the public of intent to begin rulemaking (CR-101)
- August through October – Rule writing workshops
- February/March 2013 – Notice to the public of proposed rules (CR-102)
- April/May – Hearing
- June 2013 – Notice to the public of adoption of rules
- July 1, 2013 – Rules effective

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6237

- Creates the medical assistant profession beginning July 1, 2013
- Creates four categories:
 - Medical assistant-registered
 - Medical assistant-phlebotomist
 - Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician
 - Medical assistant-certified

ESSB 6237 (cont'd)

- Medical assistants will be supervised by:
 - Physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, naturopaths, physician assistants, osteopathic physician assistants, and optometrists
- Phases out the Department of Health-issued health care assistant credential by 2016

ESSB 6237 (cont'd)

- Requires the department to submit two reports to the legislature by December 15, 2012:
 - Career pathways
 - Specialty assistive personnel

ESSB 6237 Section 4

- Minimum qualifications
 - Medical assistant-certified
 - Medical assistant-phlebotomist
 - Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician
- Minimum requirements necessary for a health care practitioner, clinic, or group practice to endorse a medical assistant-registered

ESSB 6237 Section 5

- Department of Health approved:
 - Medical assistant training program
 - Examination
- Other qualifications

ESSB 6237 Section 6

- Requires the department to:
 - Periodically update tests based on changes made by the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendment (CLIA)
 - Establish minimum standards for a MA-certified to administer intravenous injections for diagnostic or therapeutic agents
 - Limit drugs that may be administered by MA-certified based on risk, class, or route
 - Establish rules regarding allowed procedures for MA-hemodialysis and MA-phlebotomist

ESSB 6237 Section 8

- Gives the department the authority to:
 - Adopt necessary rules
 - Establish forms and procedures
 - Hire staff
 - Set fees

ESSB 6237 Section 12

- Requires the department to determine if military training is substantially equivalent to standards established in law and rule

Focus of discussion and limitations

- We are here to:
 - Get input from interested parties
 - Focus on requirements established in the law
- We are not here to:
 - Debate what is in the law
 - Amend the health care assistant rules
- Time will be allowed at the end of the workshop to discuss other issues

Open Discussion



medical.assistants@doh.wa.gov

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON