
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6373

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF PERIPHERALLY-INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETERS IN LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS.

SUMMARY:

This bill permits an intravenous (IV) therapy nurse employed or contracted by a nursing home that operates an IV therapy program to administer a peripherally-inserted central catheter (PICC) as part of the home's IV therapy program. Current Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations allow only a physician to administer a PICC (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 19-13-D8u (c)(3)). A PICC is a tube that is inserted into a peripheral vein, typically in the upper arm, and advanced until the catheter tip ends in a large vein in the chest near the heart to obtain intravenous access.

It also requires the DPH to adopt regulations to implement the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

DEFINITIONS

Under the bill, "administer" means to (1) initiate the venipuncture and deliver an IV fluid or IV admixture into the blood through a vein and (2) monitor and care for the venipuncture site, terminate the procedure, and record pertinent events and observations.

"IV therapy program" means a nursing home's overall plan to implement, monitor, and safeguard the administration of IV therapy to patients.

"IV therapy nurse" means a registered nurse qualified by education and training who has demonstrated proficiency in the theoretical and clinical aspects of IV therapy to administer an IV fluid or IV admixture.

The following terms are defined but are not subsequently referred

to in the bill. They appear in DPH's existing regulations on IV therapy programs in nursing homes.

"IV admixture" means an IV fluid to which one or more additional drug products have been added.

"IV fluid" means sterile solutions of 50 millimeters or more, intended for intravenous infusion, but does not include blood and blood products.

"IV therapy" means the introduction of an IV fluid or IV admixture into the blood through a vein to (1) correct water deficit and electrolyte imbalances, (2) provide nutrition, and (3) deliver antibiotics and other therapeutics approved by a nursing home's medical staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/07/2011)