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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 628
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Brent

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Health to establish and provide to all health care facilities educational materials and guidelines regarding patient and resident hand hygiene.
- Requires the educational materials and guidelines to be convenient, accessible, and culturally appropriate for different groups of patients and residents.
- Requires health care facilities to make these educational materials and guidelines available to patients and residents and to provide appropriate hand hygiene products and wash facilities.
- Specifies that a health care facility is not required to provide the educational materials and guidelines, hand hygiene products, and wash facilities for incapacitated or emergency patients or residents.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hand hygiene for patients and residents of health care facilities

The bill requires hand hygiene education for patients and residents of health care facilities. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is responsible for creating and distributing to health care facilities appropriate educational materials and guidelines.¹ Health care facilities, which include hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and any other type of health care facility at the Director of Health's discretion,² are responsible for making the educational materials and guidelines available to patients and residents and for providing the resources and

¹ R.C. 3701.035(B).

² R.C. 3701.035(A).

support necessary to facilitate hand hygiene.³ The Director is responsible for adopting any rules necessary to implement this bill.⁴

The Department of Health's responsibilities

The bill requires ODH to establish and provide educational materials and guidelines regarding hand hygiene procedures for patients and residents of health care facilities. These materials and guidelines must be relevant and comprehensible to different groups of patients and residents, including patients and residents who:

- Are at different types of health care facilities;
- Speak different languages; and
- Have functional and sensory impairments.

The bill specifies that all materials and guidelines must be written in a manner easily understood by someone with not more than a fourth grade education and must be styled in an appropriate, visible font.⁵

Health care facilities' responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each health care facility to make the educational materials and guidelines provided by ODH available to all patients and residents. It is also the responsibility of the health care facility to ensure that patients and residents have access to the hygiene products and wash facilities necessary to comply with hand hygiene procedures at the following times:

- At meal times;
- When entering and exiting an area of the facility where patient care is provided;
- Before and after touching a wound or medical device;
- After coughing or sneezing; and
- After urination or a bowel movement, regardless of whether these take place in a bathroom or somewhere else.

If a patient or resident has a physical or mental health condition that interferes with the ability to follow the hand hygiene procedures, it is the responsibility of health care staff to provide assistance.⁶

³ R.C. 3701.035(C).

⁴ R.C. 3701.035(D).

⁵ R.C. 3701.035(B).

⁶ R.C. 3701.035(C)(1).

Exceptions

The bill specifies that health care facilities are not required to provide the educational materials and guidelines or hand hygiene products and wash facilities for patients or residents who are incapacitated or who are initially admitted to an emergency department.⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	5-12-20

H0628-I-133/ar

⁷ R.C. 3701.035(C)(2).