

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 444**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gipson**  
(Coauthor: Senator Pan)

February 23, 2015

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An act to amend Section 1279.7 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 444, as introduced, Gipson. Health facilities: epidural connectors.

Existing law, as of January 1, 2016, prohibits a health facility, as defined, from using an epidural connector that would fit into a connector other than the type it was intended for, unless an emergency or urgent situation exists and the prohibition would impair the ability to provide health care. Existing law also requires a health facility to develop a patient safety plan and, as of January 1, 2016, requires that plan to include measures to prevent adverse events associated with misconnecting epidural lines. Violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor.

This bill would make these provisions operative as of January 1, 2017.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1279.7 of the Health and Safety Code is  
2 amended to read:

1 1279.7. (a) A health facility, as defined in subdivision (a), (b),  
2 (c), or (f) of Section 1250, shall implement a facility-wide hand  
3 hygiene program.

4 (b) Commencing January 1, ~~2016~~, 2017, a health facility, as  
5 defined in subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (f) of Section 1250, is  
6 prohibited from using an epidural connector that would fit into a  
7 connector other than the type it was intended for, unless an  
8 emergency or urgent situation exists and the prohibition would  
9 impair the ability to provide health care.

10 (c) Commencing January 1, 2016, a health facility, as defined  
11 in subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (f) of Section 1250, is prohibited  
12 from using an intravenous connector or an enteral feeding  
13 connector that would fit into a connector other than the type it was  
14 intended for, unless an emergency or urgent situation exists and  
15 the prohibition would impair the ability to provide health care.

16 (d) The Advanced Medical Technology Association shall, on  
17 January 1 of each year until the standards are developed, provide  
18 the Legislature with a report on the progress of the International  
19 Organization for Standardization in developing new design  
20 standards for connectors for intravenous, epidural, or enteral  
21 applications.

22 (e) A health facility that is required to develop a patient safety  
23 plan pursuant to Section 1279.6 shall include in the patient safety  
24 plan measures to prevent adverse events associated with  
25 misconnecting intravenous, enteral feeding, and epidural lines.  
26 This subdivision shall become inoperative as to epidural connectors  
27 upon the operative date of subdivision (b) and as to intravenous  
28 and enteral connectors upon the operative date of subdivision (c).