

## **New Section**

### **Physicians**

#### **246-919-650**

#### **Clinical Support Program**

(1) The purpose of the clinical support program is to proactively support physicians to address practice concerns through education or practice changes, or both. A practice concern is conduct that, if continued, could result in a violation of the uniform disciplinary act.

(2) A clinical support plan is a written and signed agreement between the physician and the commission listing steps the physician may take to change the practice to resolve the practice concern.

(3) The commission may resolve an alleged practice concern through the clinical support program following an investigation of a complaint or a mandatory report.

(4) The commission shall use the following criteria to determine eligibility for the clinical support program:

(a) The alleged practice concern may be corrected by education or practice changes, or both, and is unlikely to reoccur;

(b) Education or practice changes, or both, are sufficient to ensure patient protection;

(c) The physician agrees to participate in the clinical support program; and

(d) The commission has not authorized disciplinary action for the identified practice concern under RCW 18.130.172, RCW 18.130.170, or RCW 18.130.090.

(5) The commission has sole discretion to offer a clinical support plan to an eligible physician to resolve a complaint.

(6) The commission shall use the following process to implement the clinical support program:

(a) After an investigation identifies an alleged practice concern, the commission will apply criteria in subsection (4) of this section to determine eligibility for the clinical support program;

(b) If all the criteria are met, and the commission determines that the physician is eligible for participation in the clinical support program, the commission may propose a clinical support plan to the physician; and

(c) When the commission determines that the physician has successfully completed the clinical support plan, the commission will close the matter without further action.

(7) Participation in the clinical support program is not disciplinary action and is not reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank or the Federation of State Medical Boards.

## **New Section**

### **Physician Assistants**

**246-918-380**

#### **Clinical Support Program**

(1) The purpose of the clinical support program is to proactively support physician assistants to address practice concerns through education or practice changes, or both. A practice concern is conduct that, if continued, could result in a violation of the uniform disciplinary act.

(2) A clinical support plan is a written and signed agreement between the physician assistant and the commission listing steps the physician may take to change the practice to resolve the practice concern.

(3) The commission may resolve an alleged practice concern through the clinical support program following an investigation of a complaint or a mandatory report.

(4) The commission shall use the following criteria to determine eligibility for the clinical support program:

(a) The alleged practice concern may be corrected by education or practice changes, or both, and is unlikely to reoccur;

(b) Education or practice changes, or both, are sufficient to ensure patient protection;

(c) The physician assistant agrees to participate in the clinical support program;  
and

(d) The commission has not authorized disciplinary action for the identified practice concern under RCW 18.130.172, RCW 18.130.170, or RCW 18.130.090.

(5) The commission has sole discretion to offer a clinical support plan to an eligible physician assistant to resolve a complaint.

(6) The commission shall use the following process to implement the clinical support program:

(a) After an investigation identifies an alleged practice concern, the commission will apply criteria in subsection (4) of this section to determine eligibility for the clinical support program;

(b) If all the criteria are met, and the commission determines that the physician assistant is eligible for participation in the clinical support program, the commission may propose a clinical support plan to the physician assistant; and

(c) When the commission determines that the physician assistant has successfully completed the clinical support plan, the commission will close the matter without further action.

(7) Participation in the clinical support program is not disciplinary action and is not reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank or the Federation of State Medical Boards.