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## In Progress

### Establishing the use of nitrous oxide in office based surgical settings, WAC 246-919-601

The WMC is considering amending [WAC 246-919-601](#) to exempt the use of nitrous oxide in office-based surgical settings under certain circumstances. Additionally, the WMC is considering adding a new subsection to further address the use of nitrous oxide in such settings. The CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, for this rulemaking was filed on May 17, 2024, as [WSR #24-11-104](#).

Between July 2024 and January 2025, the WMC held three workshops, collaborating with the public, associations, and other interested parties to develop the draft language. At the final workshop held on January 27, 2025, the panel approved the draft language for presentation to the Commission at its March 14, 2025, Business Meeting. During that meeting, the Commissioners authorized moving forward with the next step in the rulemaking process, the CR-102, or Proposed Rules. The CR-102 was filed June 30, 2025, under [WSR #25-14-080](#). On August 22, 2025, a hearing was held, and based on the testimony presented, the Commissioners voted to return to the CR-101 phase of rulemaking. A workshop was held on October 20, 2025, where the draft language was revised to include the testimony presented at the first hearing. On November 21, the Commissioners approved initiating a new CR-102 and rescinded the CR-102 filed under [WSR #25-14-080](#).

Please visit our [Rules in Progress](#) page for more information.

### Opioid Prescribing for Physician Assistants (PA) and Allopathic Physicians (MD)

A CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, was filed on April 30, 2025, as [WSR #25-10-039](#). The Commission is considering amending the following opioid prescribing rules to modernize the language, add clarity, and bring the rules more in line with current practice: MD, WAC 246-919-850 through 246-919-985; and PA, WAC 246-918-800 through 246-918-935. Workshops are ongoing. Please visit our [Rules in Progress](#) page for the current schedule.

### Chapter 246-919 WAC, Allopathic Physicians (MD)

A CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, was filed on rulemaking on May 22, 2025, under [WSR #25-12-014](#). The WMC is considering amending [WAC 246-919-010](#) through [WAC 246-919-520](#) and [WAC 246-919-602](#) through [WAC 246-919-700](#) to modernize language, add clarity, and bring the rules more in line with current practice. Workshops will be scheduled soon. Please visit our [Rules in Progress](#) page for the current schedule.

### Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreements

The [CR-101](#) for creating rules related to Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreements was filed with the Office of the Code Reviser on July 22, 2020 as [WSR #20-16-008](#).

One aspect of the practice of medicine is working with pharmacists to deliver drug therapy to patients. This coordination can take many forms, but the WMC's concern involves treating patients under a collaborative drug therapy agreement (CDTA). These arrangements occur pursuant to a written agreement entered into by an individual physician or physician assistant and an individual pharmacist.

The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission has adopted a rule that governs CDTAs from the pharmacy perspective, however there are no statutes or rules that govern a physician's responsibilities under a CDTA. A rule is needed to define the roles and responsibilities of the physician or physician assistant who enters into a CDTA, any defined limit to the number of pharmacists who may have a CDTA with any one physician or physician assistant, and how the physician or physician assistant and pharmacist can best collaborate under these agreements.

Regulating the use of CDTAs would place the WMC in an active patient safety role. Rulemaking would provide clarity around this issue to help avoid potential discipline and increase patient safety. The new sections being considered will potentially benefit the public's health by ensuring that participating providers are informed and regulated by current national industry and best practice standards.

Workshops for this rulemaking are on hold pending the outcome of the Department of Health's ongoing Sunrise Review of the [Pharmacist Scope of Practice](#). Please visit our [Rules in Progress](#) page for the current schedule and draft language.

### Upcoming Rulemaking

#### Standard rulemaking: [WAC 246-921-125\(3\)](#), Anesthesiologist Assistants

Under [WAC 246-921-125](#), pertaining to anesthesiologist assistants, subsection (3) reads: "Each anesthesiologist assistant shall have four years to meet the continuing medical education requirements ... The review period begins at the **second** renewal after initial licensure or second renewal after reactivation of an expired license."

For physician assistants, the comparable rule, [WAC 246918171](#) subsection (3) reads: "Each physician assistant will have two years to meet the continuing medical education requirements ... The review period begins on the **first** birthday after receiving the initial license."

As a result of a technical error, there is an inconsistency between the two professions regulated by the WMC. Amending WAC 246-921-125 to replace "second renewal" with "first renewal" would promote consistency across professions, as both rules govern continuing education cycles and renewal review periods for advanced practice professionals under the Commission's oversight. Aligning the language would ensure fairness, clarity, and a simplified administrative process by reducing confusion for licensees who might otherwise calculate their eligibility differently. It would also better reflect the intended timing of continuing education review and support licensee understanding and compliance by clearly defining when the four-year review period begins.

On November 21, 2025, the Commissioners approved initiating rulemaking on this subject. The CR-101 is in process and workshops will be scheduled in the coming months. Please visit our [Rules in Progress](#) page for the schedule when it's available.

#### More Information

Please visit our [rulemaking site](#) and for continued updates on rule development, interested parties are encouraged to join the [WMC's rules GovDelivery](#).

WMC rulemaking comments or questions may be emailed to [medical.rules@wmc.wa.gov](mailto:medical.rules@wmc.wa.gov).

### Upcoming Events

#### April - 2026

- 13 - [Rules Workshop Chapter 246-919 WAC, Allopathic Physicians](#)
- 27 - [Opioid Prescribing General Provisions for MDs and PAs](#)

#### May - 2026

- 07 - [Personal Appearances](#)
- 08 - [WMC Business Meeting](#)
- 08 - [WMC Lunch & Learn- Topic TBA](#)
- 25 - [Memorial Day- WMC Offices Closed](#)

#### June - 2026

- 01 - [Opioid Prescribing General Provisions for MDs and PAs](#)
- 15 - [Rules Workshop Chapter 246-919 WAC, Allopathic Physicians](#)
- 19 - [Juneteenth- WMC Offices Closed](#)
- 25 - [Policy: Interested Parties](#)

#### July - 2026

- 03 - [WMC Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day](#)
- 09 - [Personal Appearances](#)
- 13 - [Opioid Prescribing General Provisions for MDs and PA](#)
- 23 - [Policy Committee](#)
- 27 - [Chapter 246-919 WAC, Allopathic Physicians](#)