

Rulemaking Efforts

[SB 6551](#) permits the WMC to issue limited licenses to IMG. The bill also directs the WMC to establish requirements for an exceptional qualification waiver in rule as well as establish requirements for a time-limited clinical experience license for IMG applicants. Establishing these requirements would reduce barriers for IMG applicants obtaining residency positions in Washington.

In response to the filing, the WMC conducted an open public rule hearing on August 26, 2022. At the hearing, the Commissioners adopted revised draft language. For a copy of the revised language, please send your request to medical.rules@wmc.wa.gov. The next step in the rules process is the CR-103, or Rulemaking Order. The CR-103 is in progress. The revised language will be in effect 31 days after the filing of the CR-103. The hearing can be viewed here: [August 26, 2022, Business Meeting & Rules Hearing \(IMG License\)](#) it begins at 29:27 and ends at 1:03:40.

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.



Reminder: Suicide Prevention CME Requirement

As providers may know, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. To help educate physicians and physician assistants on suicide prevention and awareness, the Washington Medical Commission (WMC) provides the following reminder regarding continuing medical education (CME) and self-care to address suicide prevention.

In 2014, RCW 43.70.442 was amended to extend mandatory suicide prevention education requirements to include other health professionals beyond behavioral health and social work. Washington physicians and physician assistants became statutorily required to “complete a one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that is approved by the relevant disciplining authority”.

The WMC is taking the opportunity presented by National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month to remind all licensees about the CME requirement and to be mindful of their own mental health when considering suicide prevention. The WMC promotes self-care as an essential part of medical practice, both for providers and for the patients they treat.

The WMC is sharing an example of a course that fulfills the suicide prevention CME requirement. The course is being offered by the University of Washington Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, entitled [All Patients Safe](#). This online asynchronous course is currently available for free to Washington providers who provide care to Washington patients (with a \$25 fee to obtain CME credit).

The WMC encourages providers to review the [statutory requirement](#) regarding suicide prevention CME, to ensure compliance with that requirement, and to promote self-care in an effort to help save lives.