

Rulemaking Efforts



WASHINGTON
**Medical
Commission**
Licensing. Accountability. Leadership.

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Health Equity Continuing Education for MDs and PAs

The Washington Medical Commission (WMC) officially filed a [CR-101](#) with the Office of the Code Reviser on February 10, 2023 as WSR# 23-05-054. The WMC is considering adopting a new section in chapter 246-918 WAC (physician assistants) and 246-919 WAC (physicians) to meet the requirements of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 (Chapter 276, Laws of 2021) regarding health equity continuing education (CE). The Department of Health created model rules, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830, to comply with the bill codified in [RCW 43.70.613](#). The WMC will consider these model rules as part of this rulemaking. The WMC will also consider whether additional CE hours and course topics should be included.

The WMC officially filed a CR-102 with the Office of the Code Reviser on August 23, 2023. The WMC is proposing new sections of rule to establish health equity continuing education (CE) requirements to implement Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5229 (chapter 276, Laws of 2021). The WSR# is 23-18-007. In response to the filing, the WMC held an open public rules hearing on Friday, October 20, 2023. The proposed language was approved.

The CR-102 Proposed Rulemaking filed document can be viewed [here](#). The CR-103, Rulemaking Order, is in progress.

Postgraduate Medical Training, WAC 246-919-330 via Standard Rulemaking

The WMC officially filed a CR-101 with the Office of the Code Reviser on August 23, 2023. The WMC is considering amending WAC 246-919-330(4) to remove two requirements that have become a barrier to licensure. The WSR# is 23-18-005.

At their October 20, 2023, Business meeting, the Commissioners approved initiating the next step in the rulemaking process, CR-102 Proposed Rulemaking. The hearing for this rulemaking will be held in 2024.

Postgraduate Medical Training, WAC 246-919-330 via Emergency Rulemaking

The WMC has amended WAC 246-919-330(4) Postgraduate medical training via emergency rulemaking. The amendment eliminates the outdated requirement for consecutive years of training in no more than two programs. This rule was filed on July 13, 2023, as [WSR #23-15-056](#).

The immediate amendment of WAC 246-919-330 was necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and general welfare. Continued demand for health care professionals, especially qualified physicians, makes it essential that qualified applicants are able to obtain licensure. This action will result in increasing the quantity of health care professionals able to respond to current and ongoing staffing demands.

Opioid Prescribing Rules

At their April 14, 2023, Business meeting the Commissioners voted to initiate rulemaking for both chapter 246-918 WAC (physician assistants) and chapter 246-919 WAC (allopathic physicians) to revise the opioid prescribing rules as follows:

1. Exempting patients with Sickle Cell Disease.
2. State in rule that not all chronic pain patients need to be tapered off opioids.
3. Clearer rules regarding biological specimen testing.

Mission

Promoting patient safety and enhancing the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rule making, and education.

Vision

Advancing the optimal level of medical care for the people of Washington State.