

State of Washington
Medical Quality Assurance Commission
Interpretive Statement

Title:	Continuing Medical Education Requirement for Physicians with Retired Active Licenses	MD2016-01-IS
References:	RCW 18.130.250 , RCW 18.71.080 (1)(c), WAC 246-919-480 (4), WAC 246-919-430 , WAC 246-919-460	
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Approved By:	W. Michelle Terry, MD, FAAP, Chair (Signature on file)	

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) interprets [RCW 18.130.250](#), [RCW 18.71.080](#)(1)(c), [WAC 246-919-480](#)(4), [WAC 246-919-430](#) and [WAC 246-919-460](#) to provide that a physician with a retired active license may receive credit for a maximum of 40 hours for continuing education in each of Categories II through V during each two-year renewal period. There is no limit to the hours that may be earned in Category I.

The Commission receives inquiries from physicians with retired active licenses asking how many of the required 100 hours of continuing medical education must be earned in each of the categories during each two-year renewal period. The Commission reviewed the statutes and rules governing retired active licenses.

[RCW 18.130.250](#) provides, in part:

The disciplining authority may adopt rules pursuant to this section authorizing a retired active license status... Except as provided in RCW 18.71.080, such a license shall meet the continuing education or continued competency requirements, if any, established by the disciplining authority for renewals...

[RCW 18.71.080](#)(1)(c) provides:

(c) A physician who resides and practices in Washington and obtains or renews a retired active license shall be exempt from licensing fees imposed under this section. The commission may establish rules governing mandatory continuing education requirements which shall be met by physicians applying for renewal of licenses. The rules shall provide that mandatory continuing education requirements may be met in part by physicians showing evidence of the completion of approved activities relating to

professional liability risk management. The number of hours of continuing education for a physician holding a retired active license shall not exceed fifty hours per year.

[WAC 246-919-480](#)(4) provides:

Physicians with a retired active license must renew every two years and must report one hundred hours of continuing medical education at every renewal.

[WAC 246-919-430](#) requires physicians with active licenses to complete at least 200 hours of continuing medical education every four years, unless they meet one of the alternative requirements for maintenance of licensure.

[WAC 246-919-460](#) states that all 200 hours may be earned in Category I, but states that the maximum amount of hours that can be earned in categories II through V is 80 hours in each category.

The Commission interprets these statutes and rules to require physicians with retired active licenses to be required to adhere to the same maximums as physicians with active licenses, but adjusted for the different renewal periods. Since retired active physicians must report CME every two years, instead of every four years, the maximum hours listed in each category in WAC 246-919-460 should be reduced by half.

Therefore, the Commission interprets [RCW 18.130.250](#), [RCW 18.71.080](#)(1)(c), [WAC 246-919-480](#)(4), [WAC 246-919-430](#) and [WAC 246-919-460](#) to provide that a physician with a retired active license may receive credit for a maximum of 40 hours for continuing education in each of categories II through V during each two-year renewal period. There is no limit to the hours that may be earned in Category I.