



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission  
P.O. Box 47864  
Olympia, WA 98504-7864

January 23, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT:** Rulemaking regarding health equity continuing education requirements for Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs), and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).

In accordance with Chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, we invite collaboration with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people. Therefore, please be advised we are considering rules to create a health equity continuing education (CE) requirement for RNs, ARNPs, and LPNs to implement RCW 43.70.613.

**Purpose**

In 2021, the legislature passed ESSB 5229, codified at RCW 43.70.613, requiring health professionals credentialed under RCW 18.130.040 with a CE requirement, to complete two hours of health equity continuing education (CE) training every four years as described in RCW 43.70.613.

The Department of Health (department) developed proposed model rules establishing minimum standards for health equity CE training for health care professionals to include instruction on skills to address structural factors, such as bias, racism, and poverty, that manifest as health inequities. The department filed proposed rules for health equity CE minimum standards on August 23, 2022, under WSR 22-17-141. Any rules developed by the commission must meet or exceed the minimum standards in the model rules found at WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830.

The commission is considering opening continuing competency rules to establish nursing-specific content requirements for health equity education training. Opening the rules would provide the opportunity for interested party engagement, rule clarification, and possible amendments to address the identified concerns

**Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations**

We would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share, including whether the health equity continuing educational requirement, or the minimum standards of the course content will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native people, Indian Health Program, or Urban Indian Health Organizations. We also invite tribal representatives to take an active role in the development of the health equity continuing education rules.

### **Copies, Comments, and Questions**

Our division will make copies of materials related to the development of the health equity continuing education model rules upon your request as they become available.

We also would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share regarding this action. To request a copy of the materials specific to the action, or to provide comments, please contact Jessilyn Dagum, Policy Analyst, Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission at [Jessilyn.Dagum@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Jessilyn.Dagum@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-3538.

Please contact Tamara Fife, our agency's Tribal Relations Director, by telephone at 360-870-8903 or by email at: [tamara.fife@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tamara.fife@doh.wa.gov) if you would like to request a formal consultation with the agency or if you have tribal-affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



*Paula R. Meyer* MSN, RN, FRE

Paula R. Meyer, MSN, RN, FRE  
Executive Director  
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

cc: Umair Shah, Secretary, Department of Health  
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of the Office of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health  
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of the Office of Prevention, Safety and Health, Department of Health  
Kristin Peterson, Chief of the Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health  
Tamara Fife, Tribal Relations Director, Department of Health  
Candice Wilson, Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health  
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