



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 18, 2023

TIME: 7:42 AM

WSR 23-21-095

Agency: Department of Health

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Health equity continuing education (CE) for genetic counselors. The Department of Health (department) amended WAC 246-825-110 to require two hours of health equity CE every three years. Health equity CE programs must meet or exceed the standards created in the department's model rules in WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830. The adopted rule exceeds standards in the department's model rules by requiring the two hours every three years instead of every four years. The new health equity CE requirement does not add to the total CE hours required to renew the license. By allowing genetic counselors to take health equity training as part of their existing CE requirements and aligning it with the existing three year CE interval makes it less burdensome on the profession.

The adopted rule implements the requirements of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5229 (chapter 276, Laws of 2021). Codified in RCW 43.70.613, the statute directed the rule-making authority for each health profession licensed under Title 18 RCW and subject to continuing education to adopt rules requiring a minimum of two hours of health equity CE every four years. The statute also directed the department to create the model rules establishing minimum standards for health equity CE programs, which were filed on December 16, 2022 under WSR 23-01-097.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None
Repealed: None
Amended: WAC 246-825-110
Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.290.020, RCW 43.70.613, RCW 43.70.040, RCW 18.130.040

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 23-12-091 on June 6, 2023.

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

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Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

Date Adopted: 10/18/2023

Name: Kristin Peterson, JD for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH

Title: Chief of Policy for Secretary of Health

Signature:



WAC 246-825-110 Continuing education. (1) Licensed genetic counselors must complete a minimum total of (~~seventy-five~~) 75 continuing education hours or 7.5 continuing education units (CEUs) every three years following the first license renewal. One contact hour equals 0.1 CEU. Of the total hours required for each reporting cycle:

(a) Each licensee must complete at least two hours or 0.2 CEUs of health equity training in compliance with WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830. This requirement shall begin at the end of a licensee's second full continuing education reporting period after January 1, 2024, or the second full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later;

(b) No more than (~~fifteen~~) 15 continuing education hours or 1.5 CEUs may be earned for professional development activity credits (~~within a reporting cycle~~) in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Professional development activities include, but are not limited to:

(a) Teaching or providing clinical supervision; authoring or co-authoring an article or chapter in peer-review journal; genetics education outreach; leadership activities.

(b) Lecturing or instructing professional groups.

(c) Teaching genetics related courses for undergraduate, graduate, or other health provider groups.

Multiple credits shall not be given to presenters for multiple presentations of the same program.

(3) Practice-based competency courses or programs may consist of postgraduate studies, seminars, lectures, workshops (including distance learning), and professional conferences. Practice-based competencies include, but are not limited to:

(a) Communication - convey detailed genetic information to diverse audiences clearly and concisely while bridging cultural, socioeconomic and educational difference.

(b) Critical thinking - perform complicated risk calculations; evaluate medical, family and psychosocial histories; distill genetic and psychosocial information; participate in diagnostic evaluations; and develop effective case management plan.

(c) Interpersonal counseling, and psychosocial assessment - use an empathetic approach to identify a patient's concerns, clarify beliefs and values, promote preventative health measures and facilitate informed decision making.

(d) Professional ethics and values.

(4) Courses and programs accredited or approved by the following organizations qualify for continuing education credit for licensed genetic counselors.

(a) ABGC;

(b) ABMG;

(c) NSGC; or

(d) Other courses or programs as approved by the secretary.

(5) Continuing education contact hours or CEUs may not be carried over from one reporting cycle to another.

(6) A genetic counselor may request an extension or to be excused from meeting the continuing education requirements due to illness or other extenuating circumstances.