



RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 20, 2022

TIME: 2:18 PM

WSR 22-22-006

Agency: Department of Health- Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
 Later (specify)

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

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: WAC 246-945-010 Prescription and chart order - Minimum requirements. The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is adopting emergency rules to reduce burdens on practitioners prescribing Schedule II substances during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Because a federal public health emergency is set to be in effect until at least January 2023, this extension will continue to reduce the burden on practitioners through the end of the federal public health emergency. This adopted emergency rule will extend WSR 22-13-180 filed on June 22, 2022. This emergency rule was originally filed on April 21, 2020 under WSR 20-09-133. It was refiled on July 10, 2020 after the commission's new chapter went into effect under WSR 20-15-058. This emergency rule will continue the existing emergency rule amending WAC 246-945-010 to increase the duration of time a practitioner has to deliver a signed prescription of a Schedule II substance to the pharmacy from seven days to fifteen days when a prescription is dispensed in an emergency. It also defines what a "signed prescription" means and allows for a practitioner to accomplish this requirement through paper, electronic transmission, facsimile, photograph, or scanned copy. These alternative methodologies support patients, practitioners, and pharmacists' efforts to practice social distancing and to help mitigate communal spread.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None
Repealed: None
Amended: WAC 246-945-010
Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.64.005; chapter 69.50 RCW

Other authority:

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
 That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: The immediate amendment of this existing rule is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and general welfare. This rule would allow patients and providers, especially pain patients, to limit their COVID-19 exposure both in the broader community and in the various health care settings. Interested parties and leaders from the pain community have highlighted this is an immediate need for Washingtonians. This emergency rule has been in effect since April 21, 2020. This emergency rule allows more time and more avenues for complying with the requirements during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, reducing burdens on practitioners and pharmacists, and sustaining patient access during this difficult time. The emergency rules follow guidance from the US Drug Enforcement Agency and will help address this problem and reduce barriers for providers and patient populations in need of Schedule II prescriptions throughout the federal public health emergency. Observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to public interest.

**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>0</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>1</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: 10/20/2022

Name: Teri Ferreira, RPh

Title: Pharmacy Quality Assurance Chair

Signature:

