



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

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FILED

DATE: December 19, 2022

TIME: 3:31 PM

WSR 23-01-113

Agency: Department of Health- Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

Subject of possible rule making: WAC 246-945-178--Pharmacist Continuing Education and WAC 246-945-220 Pharmacy Technician--Continuing Education. The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is proposing amending sections of Chapter 246-945 WAC relating to continuing education requirements to establish minimum standards for health equity CE training programs.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.64.005; RCW 18.130.040; RCW 43.70.613

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 (Chapter 276, Laws of 2021), codified as RCW 43.70.613, requires rulemaking authorities to establish health equity continuing education (CE). Per RCW 43.70.613(1), "each health profession licensed under Title 18 RCW subject to continuing education requirements." There are the two professions under the jurisdiction of the commission subject to CE requirements under Title 18 RCW: Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians. The department is responsible for conducting model rulemaking that, once complete, the commission can either adopt the minimum requirements or establish its own rulemaking pertaining to health equity training as an element of existing CE requirements. The commission's CE requirements must meet at a minimum the same requirements as the model rules. The commission must complete its rulemaking on this issue by January 1, 2024.

The purpose of health equity CE training is to develop skills among licensed health care personnel to "address structural factors, such as bias, racism, and poverty that manifest as health inequities" per RCW 43.70.613(3)(c). Establishing training requirements for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians will help identify and address ongoing health inequities in Washington State and promote overall patient safety.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) Collaborative Rule Making

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

Name: Joshua Munroe	(If necessary) Name:
Address: PO Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852	Address:
Phone: 360-236-2987	Phone:
Fax: 360-236-2901	Fax:
TTY: 711	TTY:
Email: PharmacyRules@doh.wa.gov	Email:
Web site:	Web site:
Other:	Other:

Additional comments: Rule development takes place in open public meetings prior to a formal rule proposal and comment period. All rulemaking notices are sent via GovDelivery. To receive notices, interested persons may sign up by going to: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new>. After signing up, please click open the box labeled "Health Systems Quality Assurance." Next, click open the box labeled "Health Professions," then check the boxes next to either "Pharmacy Commission Meeting and Agenda" and/or "Pharmacy Commission Newsletter."

Date: December 19, 2022

Name: Teri Ferreira, RPh

Title: Pharmacy Quality Assurance Chair

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teri Ferreira". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.