



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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June 17, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

The Department of Health (department) has adopted amendments to chapter 246-976 WAC, Emergency medical services and trauma care systems. The rules in chapter 246-976 WAC are rules that:

- Establish the standards and qualifications for the issuance, suspension, and revocation of an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) license and trauma verification, EMS provider certification, EMS instructor recognition, EMS training program and training course approval, and minimum prerequisites required for a person to attend an initial training course.
- Establish the minimum requirements for continuing education, scope of practice, and specify the provisions of specialized training for certified EMS providers.
- Prescribe the roles and responsibilities of the EMS physician medical program directors and establish the qualifications for the issuance, suspension, and revocation of the medical program director certification.
- Prescribe the minimum roles and responsibilities for the local and regional EMS and Trauma Care Councils.

The amended and new rules are in response to Substitute Senate Bill 5380 amending RCW 70.168.090 and requiring electronic data submission to the department by EMS providers.

The revised and added rules clarify use of data by the department and key partners, outline the responsibilities of the department in relation to the collection, management, communication, and stewardship of the data collected, and outline the EMS provider responsibilities in submitting electronic patient records.

Furthermore, the rules are intended to standardize data collected by EMS and align state data with national standards for improved completeness, and accuracy of quality improvement and surveillance information.

The adopted amendments to chapter 246-976 WAC will become effective on September 30, 2024. A copy of the adopted rules is attached.

The adopted rules are different from the text of the proposed rule as it was published in the Washington State Register 24-06-084. The following clarifying and non-substantive changes were made to the proposed rules upon adoption:

**WAC 246-976-455 (6)** To add clarity to parameters of data elements required for reporting, non-substantive changes were made to WAC 246-976-455 EMS Service and Provider Responsibilities. Those changes include adding “where applicable” to the parameters of required data elements and removing “Patient Email Address” from the list of required data elements.

The following table is a summary of all comments received and the department’s response:

WAC Section	Comment	Program Response
<p>WAC 246-976-445 (3)(i) EMS data system Department responsibilities:</p>	<p>Will the department work with ESO to standardize how this information is collected (e.g., insights dashboard or aggregated file of total volumes)?</p>	<p>No change was made to the rule. The department will work with data system vendors (e.g. ESO, Image Trend etc...) operating in the State to optimize data collection and standardization to the extent possible.</p>
<p>WAC 246-976-455 (6) EMS data system Department responsibilities:</p>	<p>The data elements should not be required for all records, but only the applicable records (e.g., Recent local travel only applicable for infectious diseases). Patient email address should not be a required at all.</p>	<p>The department added “where applicable” to WAC 246-976-455(6) to clarify the conditionality of the required data elements. The department removed “Patient email address” from the required data elements list.</p>

<p>WAC 246-976-330 Ambulance and aid service record requirements</p>	<p>Would the department clarify the requirement for AID services to complete patient care reports?</p>	<p>RCW 70.168.090 requires both licensed ambulance and aid services to report and furnish patient encounter data to the department. The proposed rules provide details on the content and manner of that reporting. Aid services will be required to furnish data in adherence with the rules and applicable to the incident response provided.</p> <p>No changes were made to the rule as proposed.</p>
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Any person may petition the adoption or amendment of these rules in accordance with RCW 34.05.330.