



December 30, 2024

Subject: Informative- Information on Agency Rulemaking December 1-15, 2024

Dear Tribal Leaders, Partners and Professionals,

We thank you for your partnership and guidance on the Washington State Department of Health rulemaking process. As an agency, we are committed to honoring the Tribal sovereignty of Washington's first Nations. As part of this commitment, and in appreciation of the governance structures of Tribal Nations, we welcome your expertise and collaboration in these current and upcoming rulemaking activities. We prioritize Tribal involvement early in the process to better ensure we are incorporating Tribal expertise, perspectives, and transparency in agency rulemaking.

In accordance with [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [Department of Health's \(WA-DOH\) Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), DOH invites you to review the list of rulemaking activities below and actively collaborate with staff on all topics that may be of interest.

We appreciate your feedback, if you have any suggestions or questions about how to best honor Tribal sovereignty and strengthen agency processes, please let us know.

To provide comments or requests for additional information, please contact:

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360-628-0096

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Candice Wilson.

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi)
Executive Director OTPHR

CC: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health
Michelle Davis, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Deputy Secretary, Prevention Safety & Health, Department of Health
Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH, Chief Science Officer, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Department of Health/State Board of Health
Rule Report |
December 1-15, 2024

The following Department of Health (WA-DOH) and State Board of Health (SBOH) rules and documents were filed with the Washington State's Code Reviser Office December 1-15, 2024. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact the person on the forms.

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101)

No Filings

Proposed Rules (CR-102)

Hospital Licensing Regulations. WA-DOH is proposing amendments to WAC 246-320-500, 246-320-505, and 246-320-600 to align hospital licensing construction standards with the 2022 editions of the Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and the Guidelines for Design and Construction of Outpatient Facilities. Additionally, WA-DOH is proposing to increase the construction cost threshold for projects that require a pre-submission conference from \$250,000 to \$500,000. For clarity and readability, WA-DOH is proposing to reformat WAC 246-320-600 by adopting the 2022 Guidelines by reference and publishing a separate document outlining Washington's amendments to the 2022 Guidelines. [Filed as WSR 24-24-082.](#)

Permanent Closure Reporting Requirements for Pharmacies, Health Care Entities, Hospital Pharmacy Associated Clinics, Wholesalers, and Manufacturers. The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is proposing to amend WAC 246-945-480 to require additional reporting requirements provided to customers and the commission in advance of permanent closures. The commission is proposing to add WAC 246-945-231 to consolidate the reporting requirement for pharmaceutical firms to report disciplinary action to the commission and add WAC 246-945-592 to establish reporting requirements for permanently closing manufacturers and wholesalers. [Filed as WSR 25-01-067.](#)

Expedited Rulemaking (CR-105)

Definition of Veteran. WA-DOH is proposing changes to replace the term "honorable discharge" with "qualifying discharge." Recent legislation amended language adding the term "qualifying discharge" to various benefit programs for veterans, replacing references to "honorable discharge." This term is used in WAC 246-12-530 and 246-12-560. [Filed as WSR 24-24-083.](#)

Adopted Rules (CR-103P)

Physician and Physician Assistant Military Spouse Temporary Practice License. The Washington Medical Commission adopted amendments to WAC 246-918-076 and WAC 246-919-397 to align with the provisions of Second Substitute House Bill 1009, also known as the Military Spouse Employment Act, codified under RCW 18.340.020. These amendments streamline the license process for military spouses, ensuring consistency with state legislation and improving overall clarity and efficiency in the application process. [Filed as WSR 24-24-098.](#)

Expanding Access to Drugs. The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission adopted amendments to WAC 246-945-455 to allow access to drugs stored outside of the pharmacy by unlicensed staff in health care facilities for the purposes of supply chain management. [Filed as WSR 24-24-084.](#)

Security Screening Systems. WA-DOH adopted a new chapter of rules, chapter 246-230 WAC, that establishes radiation safety standards for the use of ionizing radiation for security purposes, while making every reasonable effort to maintain exposures to radiation as low as reasonably achievable to protect public health and safety. [Filed as WSR 25-01-051.](#)

Emergency Rules (CR-103E)

WA Health Reporting for Acute Care Hospitals in WAC 246-320-700. WA-DOH is extending this emergency rule to continue to require acute care hospitals in Washington state, licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, to report hospital maintenance and operation data to the department through Washington's Healthcare and Emergency and Logistics Tracking Hub in accordance with the WA HEALTH User Guide. [Filed as WSR 24-24-102.](#)

Miscellaneous Filings

Board of Massage – 2025 regular meeting schedule. [Filed as WSR 25-01-004.](#)

WA-DOH, Washington Hospital Staffing Advisory Committee – 2025 regular meeting schedule. [Filed as WSR 24-24-077.](#)

Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission - Transfer for Initial Dispensing of an Electronic Prescription for a Controlled Substance | Policy Statement P013. [Filed as WSR 24-24-054.](#)

WA-DOH, Substance Use Disorder Certification, Advisory Committee – 2025 regular meeting schedule. [Filed as WSR 25-01-058.](#)