



**WASHINGTON STATE
CHIROPRACTIC QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2025**

This was a public meeting held in person and online.

The Olympia Center
222 Columbia St NW
Olympia, WA 98501

Committee Members:

Dr. Vanessa Wise; Susan Bogni, MPA; Judge Julie Spector (ret.); Dr. Stephen Chan; Dr. Dana Clum; Dr. Bill Davis; and Dr. David Folweiler, Protem Member

Additional Commission Members Attending: Dr. Michael Clifton

Staff Members:

Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director

Tammy Kelley, Deputy Executive Director

Christopher Gerard, Assistant Attorney General

OPEN SESSION – Thursday, January 23, 2025

6:31 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Wise, Chair

- 1.1** Approval of the agenda. A motion was made to correct the date of the meeting (in open session portion) to Thursday instead of Monday, January 23, 2025. The motion carried.

Dr. Wise clarified that this was an Ad hoc committee that will only meet when a formal request has been submitted to the Commission regarding the classified list of chiropractic instrumentation and procedures. As a committee, no decisions will be made as part of this meeting. The committee can make recommendations, but that is all.

2. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION REGARDING A REQUEST TO APPROVE MILD HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

- 2.1** The Committee discussed a request from Dr. Jeffrey Word to fully approve mild hyperbaric oxygen therapy (mHBOT) on the Commission's [Classification of Chiropractic Procedures and Instrumentation List](#). This therapy is currently listed as investigational.

Dr. Word was in attendance.

Dr. Wise reviewed WAC 246-808-505(1)(c) and (3) and (4) to start the discussion. Clarification was made that (4) allows the Commission to utilize the factors, but they aren't requirements, to be approved. The Commission consider the rules when making any decisions.

Committee members discussed the following:

- Is mHBOT being taught as part of a chiropractic educational program?
 - Parker University has developed continuing education (CE) course options.
- While the information provided was interesting and promising. There wasn't a great body of evidence showing a clinical benefit to the types of conditions treated by chiropractors.
- The differences between oxygenation levels and atmospheric pressure between HBOT and mHBOT.
- Benefits and risks/side-effects of usage.
- Training requirements to use mHBOT.

Dr. Word completed the Request for Addition or Changes to the Commission Classified List of Chiropractic Procedure and Instrumentation form.

The second portion of the form is to be used by the Commission when reviewing a request and includes the following:

1. Is utilization of the requested procedure or instrument by chiropractors consistent with RCW 18.25. Are any other statutes implicated?
2. How relevant and thorough is current research regarding the scientific basis for the procedure or instrument?
3. To what extent would the procedure or instrument impact directly and positively on chiropractic care in the State of Washington?
4. What are the risks and benefits of the procedure or instrument to patients? To what extent do the benefits outweigh the risks?
5. To what extent is utilizing the procedure or instrument taught in accredited chiropractic colleges?
6. Is the current status of the instrument or procedure generally viewed as experimental or for use in research only?
7. Would approval of the instrument or procedure be viewed as controversial by the profession or other stakeholders?
8. Other factors the Committee considered in the review of the request.

The committee discussed because mHBOT is listed as experimental, then the question about being in scope seems like a moot point.

The committee had questions about the body of evidence provided supporting the use of mHBOT. The committee discussed that they would like to learn more about mHBOT, before making any recommendations to the Commission, and more studies focused on mHBOT and humans.

Christopher Gerard, AAG shared the definition of “approved” as listed in WAC 246-808-505(1)(a) which requires being taught by a commission approved chiropractic college for patient and clinical application and not for research or experimental purposes and is allowable by statute.

The committee focused on question 5 - to what extent is utilizing the procedure or instrument taught in accredited chiropractic colleges?

Committee members questioned how they could go about determining if mHBOT is being taught at the educational level.

Dr. Clum indicated she would reach out to Dr. Little, President, Council on Chiropractic Education for more information.

Dr. Ward will reach out to Palmer University for more information.

The committee will be sharing information with the Commission at their next meeting on Thursday, January 30th.

3. ADJOURNMENT

7:49 p.m.



January 30, 2025

Prepared By: Robert Nicoloff, Executive Director

Date



January 30, 2025

Approved By: Vanessa Wise, DC, Chair

Date