



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 02, 2025

TIME: 7:06 AM

WSR 25-12-078

Agency: Department of Health – Board of Hearing and Speech

Subject of possible rule making: Prescription Hearing Aids - Requirements for initial fitting and hearing tests. The Board of Hearing and Speech (board) is considering amendments to WAC 246-828-025, 246-828-090, 246-828-095, 246-828-100, 246-828-320, 246-828-330, and other sections, including potentially creating new sections, in chapter 246-828 WAC related to prescription hearing aids and hearing test requirements. The board is considering addressing telepractice for initial fittings of hearing aids and considering how recent the hearing test must be when fitting prescription hearing aids.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.35.161

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: The board is interested in exploring telepractice and its implications for initial fitting of prescription hearing aids. Specific questions regarding physical examination, fit validation, and verification of device efficacy are of interest to the board when initial fittings are completed virtually. The board may amend initial hearing aid fitting requirements to ensure that ear health, device comfort, and optimal amplification are effectively assessed.

The board is also considering requiring that hearing tests for prescription hearing aid fittings should be no older than six months. Amending this time-frame requirement to extend to all hearing aid fittings could enhance patient outcomes and ensure that clinicians have up-to-date hearing data for accurate fittings.

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 rulemaking

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

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(If necessary)

Name:

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Other:

Other:

Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in drafting the proposed rules. The board will be conducting rules workshops with the interested parties and subject matter experts. The board will use GovDelivery Board of Hearing and Speech list to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language. To receive notices, please go to: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new>. After signing in, please click open the box labeled "Health Systems Quality Assurance." Next click open the box labeled "Health Professions" and then check "Board of Hearing and Speech." You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions or facilities listed to receive information related to that specific topic.

Date: 5/2/2025

Name: Jennifer Santiago

Title: Executive Director, Office of Health Professions

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Santiago", is written over a horizontal line.