

Department of Health
Office of Assistant Secretary

Notice of Adoption – Policy Statement

Title: Temporary practice of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians licensed out-of-state to assist with impacts of Rite Aid and Bartell Drugs closures in Washington state | HSQA-25-01

Issuing Entity: Office of the Assistant Secretary

Subject Matter: The Secretary of Health (Secretary) will exercise enforcement discretion to permit pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to practice in Washington state without an active Washington state credential or certification under chapters 18.130, 18.64, or 18.64A RCW only for the purpose of assisting with prescription transfers due to the closures of Rite Aid and Bartell Drugs pharmacies in Washington.

Effective Date: June 1, 2025

Contact Person: Megan Veith, Policy Director, Health Systems Quality Assurance
Megan.Veith@doh.wa.gov

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Office of the Assistant Secretary

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Policy Statement

Title:	Temporary practice of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians licensed out-of-state to assist with impacts of Rite Aid and Bartell Drugs closures in Washington state
Policy Statement Number:	HSQA-25-01
Document Number:	
References:	Chapters 18.64, 18.64A and 18.130 RCW
Contact:	Megan Veith, Policy Director, Health Systems Quality Assurance
Phone:	564.669.8309
Email:	Megan.Veith@doh.wa.gov
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Approved By:	Megan Veith, Policy Director, Health Systems Quality Assurance

Closures of Rite Aid and Bartell Drugs locations in Washington state due to bankruptcy proceedings are creating patient access and continuity of care concerns across the state, especially in rural areas. These closures may impact continuity of care, access to medications, and patient safety.

To help address these impacts, from the date of issuance of this policy statement and until August 31, 2025, the Secretary of Health (Secretary) will exercise enforcement discretion to permit pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to practice in Washington state without an active Washington state credential or certification under chapters 18.130, 18.64, or 18.64A RCW only for the purpose of assisting with prescription transfers due to the closures of Rite Aid and Bartell Drugs pharmacies in Washington. These individuals must:

- Be employed or contracted by a retail pharmacy that has either purchased a brick-and-mortar Rite Aid or Bartell Drugs store and/or purchased the prescription files from a closing Rite Aid or Bartell Drugs store in Washington state;

- Have an active license, in good standing, issued by another U.S. jurisdiction;
- Comply with applicable practice standards and other legal requirements governing the practice of pharmacy in Washington state codified in chapter 18.64 RCW, chapter 18.64A RCW, and chapter 246-945 WAC;
- Ensure that they are able to promptly consult a pharmacist licensed in Washington with any questions that arise while carrying out their authorized work; and
- Perform only those duties for which they are licensed in their state of licensure.

The Secretary reserves the right to bring enforcement action if any of the conditions above is not met.

Per chapter 34.05 RCW, this policy statement is advisory only and constitutes a written description of the Secretary's current approach to implementation RCW 18.130.190 governing practice without a license.