



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: March 09, 2026

TIME: 8:23 AM

WSR 26-07-017

Agency: Department of Health

Subject of possible rule making: Updating dentist licensure fees in WAC 246-817-990 to add surcharge for impaired practitioner program. The Department of Health (department), in consultation with the Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission), is considering rule amendments to add the Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP) impaired practitioner surcharge to initial licensure for dentists. Other general housekeeping may be considered to remove outdated information concerning fees that expired in 2025.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.32.534, 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 43.70.280.

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:

As required by RCW 18.32.534, the commission contracts with the WPHP to implement and operate an impaired practitioner program. Contracts with WPHP are financed by a surcharge applied to the dentist license.

Currently, WAC 246-817-990 only provides for collection of the WPHP surcharge on license renewal. To adequately fund the commission's contract with WPHP, the department is considering adding the surcharge to initial licensure as authorized by RCW 18.32.534.

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:

Name: Heather Cantrell

Address: PO Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850

Phone: N/A

Fax: N/A

TTY: 711

Email: HSQAfeerules@doh.wa.gov

Web site: doh.wa.gov

Other:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscribe/r/new>

(If necessary)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Web site:

Other:

Additional comments: Rulemaking notices will be delivered via the GovDelivery Program Name list. To receive notices, interested persons may sign up for any or all of the lists. 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 click on "Dental List" You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to received information related to that specific profession.

Date: March 9, 2026

Name: Kristin Peterson, JD for Dennis E. Worsham

Title: Chief of Policy for Secretary of Health

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Peterson".