STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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To Whom It May Concern,

The Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is adopting amendments to WAC 246-808-505, Classification of chiropractic procedures and instrumentation. The commission is adopting the amendments to eliminate ambiguity and clarify which procedures and instruments are permitted for clinical use.

The requirements in the rule have not been updated since 1996. According to RCW 43.70.041, every five years the commission must review existing rules to decrease the numbers of rules, simplify the process for obtaining a license, permit or inspection, and decrease the time required for obtaining licenses, permits, and inspections. The intent for the review is to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses while promoting public health and safety. The commission has reviewed this rule with this goal in mind.

The commission is adopting amendments to:

- Clarify which procedures and instruments are permitted for use by a chiropractor;
- Eliminate categories that are ambiguous, by providing the categories of (1) "approved" and (2) "nonapproved," and
- Permit only procedures and instruments approved by the commission that meet patient safety and evidence-based standards to be used.

The adopted language replaces the term "classification" with the term "categorization" of procedures and instruments. The term "categorization" was chosen, because the commission wanted to group the instruments into buckets as either "approved" or "nonapproved" and the term "categorization" better meets the intent of the adopted rule than the previous term "classification."

The commission also amended WAC 246-808-505 to remove the "research or investigational" category for several reasons. Firstly, the commission did not want to continue classifying procedures and instruments under a category that could be interpreted in a manner that allows a chiropractor to use a procedure or instrument outside of the chiropractor's scope of practice, or is using a procedure or instrument that is not "approved" by the commission. Secondly, the definition of "research or investigational" stated that "[n]o billing is allowed" for procedures or instruments used under this classification, but the commission does not have authority to determine what a chiropractor may, or may not, bill for. Under RCW 18.25.005(3) the commission is required to

provide rules for the type and use of diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures. The adopted rule language removes “research” or “investigational” as an “approved” procedure or instrument.

Under the adopted amendments there will be two categories of treatment (1) “approved” procedures or instruments and (2) “nonapproved” procedures or instruments. Chiropractors will not be permitted to use procedures or instruments listed as “nonapproved.”

The adopted amendments are necessary in order eliminate ambiguity in the rule language and clarify instruments are either “approved” by the commission or “nonapproved.”

The adopted rule language also enables the commission to better regulate the competency and quality of chiropractors under its jurisdiction. The amended rules establish, monitor, and enforce qualifications for consistent standards of practice while promoting the delivery of quality health care to the residents of the state, which is required under RCW 18.25.0171.

The commission received no comments from the public during either the public comment period or the July 9, 2026, public rules hearing.

Any person may petition the adoption or amendment of these rules in accordance with RCW 34.05.330.

For more information regarding these rules, you may contact Betty Moe by email at Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov or by phone at 360-764-6251.