



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission
PO Box 47852
Olympia, Washington 98504-7852
Tel: 360-236-4946 TTY Relay: 800-833-6384

July 20, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission, Medication assistance

In accordance with Chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, we invite collaboration with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people. Therefore, please be advised the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (commission) and the Department of Health (department) are jointly filing emergency rules to reinstate rules on medication assistance permitted under chapter 69.41 RCW.

Purpose

The commission's new chapter, chapter 246-945 WAC, became effective in July 2020 and replaced all the old rules under the commission's authority. The old rules, including chapter 246-888 WAC, were repealed in March 2021. The commission's repeal of chapter 246-888 WAC has resulted in unintended disruptions for medication assistance in the community-based and in-home care settings. Medication assistance is permitted under chapter 69.41 RCW and specifies that medication assistance includes the means listed in RCW 69.41.010(15) in addition to: "such other means of medication assistance as defined by rule adopted by the department." With the repeal of chapter 246-888 WAC, there are no other means specified in rule. The commission and the department are now using emergency rulemaking to immediately restore medication assistance regulations to preserve patient safety and welfare while permanent rulemaking is in progress.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations

We would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share, including whether reinstating the rules on medication assistance will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native people, Indian Health Program, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copy Available on Request

Our division will make copies of materials related to medication assistance upon your request as they become available.

Comments and Questions

Our division would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share regarding this action. To request a copy of the materials specific to the action, or to provide comments, please contact Lindsay Trant, Rules and Legislative Consultant, Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission at PharmacyRules@doh.wa.gov or at 360-236-2932.

Please contact Tamara Fife, our agency's Tribal Relations Director, by telephone at 360-870-8903 if you would like to request a formal consultation with the agency or if you have tribal-affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Lauren Lyles-Stolz, Executive Director
Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

cc: [Lindsay Trant]
[Umair A. Shah]
[Tamara Fife]
[Martin Pittioni]
[Christie Spice]