



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 18, 2021
TIME: 7:28 PM

WSR 21-06-011

Agency: Department of Health

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
 Other (specify) (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: WAC 246-828-025 and 246-828-290, Hearing and Speech. The Department of Health (department), in consultation with the Board of Hearing and Speech (board), is amending WACs 246-828-025 and 246-828-290 to implement Engrossed Senate Bill 5210 (chapter 183, Laws of 2019) addressing consumer notification of assistive hearing technologies.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None
Repealed: None
Amended: WAC 246-828-025 and 246-828-290
Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.35.310

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 20-19-146 on 09/23/2020 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: WAC 246-828-025(3): the definition of "hearing assistive technologies" is clarified to include "other technologies" as appropriate and that all such technologies are to improve sound quality or clarity of speech or sounds "with or without the presence of background noise."

WAC 246-828-290, Section 4: the standard customer form was amended to add clarity, keep the language concise, and not be overly burdensome on the providers. Language was also added to clarify the customer must be notified orally and in writing.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager
Address: Department of Health PO Box 47852 Olympia WA 98504-7852
Phone: 360-236-2912
Fax: 360-236-2901
TTY: 711
Email: kimboi.shadduck@doh.wa.gov
Web site:
Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>2</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>2</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

Date Adopted: 02/13/2021

Name: Jessica Todorovich for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH

Title: Chief of Staff for Secretary of Health

Signature:



WAC 246-828-025 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Board-approved institution of higher education" means:

(a) An institution offering a program in audiology or speech-language pathology leading to a master's degree or its equivalent, or a doctorate degree or its equivalent, that has been accredited by the council on academic accreditation in audiology and speech-language pathology, or an equivalent program.

(b) An institution offering a speech-language pathology assistant program or a speech, language, and hearing program approved by the state board for community and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, or an equivalent body from another state or province. Institutions where education was obtained outside of the United States or Canada has an equivalency determination completed by the board. This program must lead to an associate of arts or sciences degree, certificate of proficiency, or bachelor of arts or sciences degree.

(c) A board-approved institution must integrate instruction in multicultural health as part of its basic education preparation curriculum under RCW 43.70.615.

(2) "Direct supervision" means the supervisor is on-site and in view during the procedures or tasks.

(3) "Hearing assistive technologies" means assistive listening systems or devices, and other technologies that increase the intelligibility, improves sound quality, or clarity of speech or sounds with or without the presence of background noise where hearing instruments alone may not provide optimal comprehension including, but not limited to, telecoil and Bluetooth.

(4) "Indirect supervision" means the procedures or tasks are performed under the supervising speech-language pathologist's, audiologist's, or hearing aid specialist's overall direction and control and the supervisor is accessible, but the supervisor's presence is not required during the performance of procedures or tasks.

~~((4))~~ (5) "Place or places of business" means a permanent address open to the public, which may include an "establishment" as defined in RCW 18.35.010(6), where a licensee engages in the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments.

~~((5))~~ (6) "Postgraduate professional work experience" means a supervised full-time professional experience, or the part-time equivalent, as defined in these rules, involving direct patient or client contact, consultations, recordkeeping, and administrative duties relevant to a bona fide program of clinical work. Applicants who obtain an Au.D. at a board-approved institution of higher education are considered to have met the postgraduate professional work experience requirement.

~~((6))~~ (7) "Purchaser" or "buyer" means a patient, client, or legally authorized representative.

WAC 246-828-290 Purchaser rescission rights and right to notice of hearing assistive technologies. In addition to the receipt and disclosure information required by RCW 18.35.030, 18.35.185, 63.14.040 and 63.14.120, every retail agreement for the sale of hearing instruments must contain or have attached the following notice to buyer in twelve point font or larger. The language in part 1 under "Notice to Buyer" is intended to have the same legal effect as the notices required in RCW 63.14.040(2) and 63.14.120(3) and may be substituted for those notices.

The rights summarized in the "Notice to Buyer" must be made known to the purchaser before the contract is executed. The licensee must provide this "Notice to Buyer" in writing to the purchaser. The purchaser must acknowledge receipt of the "Notice to Buyer" by signing his or her name in the designated space following the "Notice to Buyer."

Notice to Buyer

NOTICE TO BUYER UNDER WASHINGTON STATE LAW CHAPTER 18.35 RCW

Do not sign this agreement before you read it or if any spaces intended for the agreed terms are blank. You are entitled to receive a copy of this agreement at the time you sign it. The seller's business address must be shown on the agreement.

Section 1 CANCELLATION - WITHIN THREE DAYS

You may cancel this agreement within three days, without explaining your reasons, if the seller solicited it in person and you signed it at a place other than the seller's business address.

To cancel this agreement without explaining your reasons, you must notify the seller in writing that you are canceling the agreement. You may deliver the written notice to the seller at the seller's business address. Alternatively, you may send the written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the seller at the seller's business address.

Your written notice must be postmarked or delivered by midnight of the third business day after you signed this agreement.

Any merchandise you received under this agreement must be in its original condition. You must return it to the seller's business address or make it available to the seller at the same place it was delivered to you.

The seller must refund to you all deposits, including any down payment, and must return to you all goods traded in as part of the agreement.

You will incur no additional liability for canceling the agreement.

Section 2 RESCISSION - WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

You may rescind (or terminate) the agreement within thirty days, for reasonable cause. This thirty-day period is called the "rescission period."

To rescind this agreement, you must notify the seller in writing that you are rescinding the agreement for reasonable cause pursuant to RCW 18.35.185(1). (Reasonable cause does not include cosmetic concerns or a mere change of mind.) You may deliver the written notice to the

seller at the seller's business address. Alternatively, you may send the written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the seller at the seller's business address.

Your written notice must be postmarked or delivered by midnight of the thirtieth day after delivery of the hearing instrument.

Any merchandise you received under this agreement must be in its original condition, except for normal wear and tear. You must return it to the seller's business address or make it available to the seller at the same place it was delivered to you.

The seller must refund to you all deposits, including any down payment, and must return to you all goods traded in as part of the agreement. However, for each hearing instrument you return, the seller may keep either one hundred fifty dollars or fifteen percent of the total purchase price, whichever is less, plus the price originally charged for custom-made earmolds.

The seller must refund your money and return your traded goods, or have them postmarked and in the mail to you, within ten business days after receiving your notice of rescission.

You will incur no additional liability for rescinding the agreement.

Section 3 EXTENSION OF RESCISSION PERIOD

If you notify the seller within the thirty-day rescission period that your hearing instrument has developed a problem that constitutes reasonable cause to rescind the agreement or that prevents you from evaluating your hearing instrument, the seller must extend the rescission period. The rescission period stops running on the date you notify the seller of the problem and starts running again on the date the seller notifies you that your hearing instrument is ready for redelivery.

You and the seller may agree to a rescission period longer than thirty days.

Whenever the rescission period is extended, the seller must provide you written notice of the last date upon which you may demand a refund and return of traded goods.

Section 4 NOTICE OF HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Prior to initial fitting and purchase you must be informed, both orally and in writing, about the uses, benefits, and limitations of current hearing assistive technologies. Hearing assistive technologies can supplement your hearing instrument and increase the intelligibility and clarity of speech in environments where hearing instruments alone may not provide optimal comprehension. Hearing assistive technology options can enable hearing instruments to connect with phones, computers, electronic sound sources, and assistive listening systems, including the assistive listening systems, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I am aware that the hearing instrument(s) referenced in this document include (please select all that apply):

- Telecoil
- Bluetooth
- Other technology (specify) _____

By signing this receipt, you acknowledge that you have been informed of your rescission rights and your rights under Section 4 of this section, to receive oral and written information about hearing

