

Department of Health
Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission

Policy Statement

Title:	COVID-19 and Continuing Education for Chiropractors	Number: CH-3-19-20B
References:	RCW 18.25.070 and WAC 246-808-150	
Contact:	Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director	
Phone:	(360) 236-2822	E-mail: cqac@doh.wa.gov
Effective Date:	March 19, 2020	
Approved By:	David Folweiler, DC, Chair	

Policy Statement

The Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) will not take enforcement action against its licensees who complete the twenty-five hour continuing education (CE) requirement using exclusively online-based courses due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Commission intends to engage in emergency rulemaking to amend WAC 246-808-150(8) to reflect that a chiropractor may earn twenty-five hours of CE credit for completing a multimedia chiropractic education program, which includes, but is not limited to, the internet, teleseminars, employer led training, and audio or video presentations.

This policy will become effective immediately and will remain effective until the Commission withdraws this position at an open public meeting or until the Governor issues a proclamation declaring the termination of the state of emergency declared by Proclamation 20-05, as amended by any subsequent amendatory proclamations, whichever is earlier.

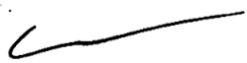
Background

Chiropractors in Washington State must complete twenty-five hours per year of CE that is recognized and approved by the Commission as a prerequisite to renewal (RCW 18.25.070 and WAC 246-808-150(1)).

Currently, a chiropractor cannot meet the CE requirements of the Commission by completing only online-based courses. Chiropractors are able to earn a "maximum of twelve hours" of CE for completing a "multimedia chiropractic education program, which includes, but is not limited to, the internet, teleseminars, employer led training, and audio or video presentations" (WAC 246-808-150(8)(a)). This prevents a chiropractor from meeting the CE requirements by only completing online-based CE because at least thirteen hours of CE must involve in-person programs.

Over the past month, the Governor has issued multiple emergency proclamations related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The actions taken by the Governor are similar to a number of emergency proclamations passed in other states and by the federal government. Chiropractors have reported these restrictions have led to the cancellation of in-person CE programs. Consequently, chiropractors are unable to meet the CE requirements of the Commission. A failure to meet CE requirements can expose a chiropractor to discipline by the Commission (RCW 18.130.180(7), RCW 18.25.070, and WAC 246-808-150(1)).

At its special business meeting on March 19, 2020, the Commission decided it would not take enforcement action against licensees who complete the twenty-five hour CE requirement using exclusively online-based courses during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Commission decided this would take effect immediately and will remain effective until the Commission withdraws this position at an open public meeting or until the Governor issues a proclamation declaring the termination of the state of emergency declared by Proclamation 20-05, as amended by any subsequent amendatory proclamations, whichever is earlier. The Commission decided it would also engage in emergency rulemaking to amend WAC 246-808-150(8) to reflect this decision.



March 19, 2020

David Folweiler, DC, Chair

Date