

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 (revised October 6, 2022, and November 17, 2022)	
Approved By:	Dana Clum, D.C., Chair, Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission	

Policy Statement

Under the terms of this Policy Statement, the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) will not take enforcement action against its licensees whose license expires on or before November 17, 2023 if they complete the twenty-five hour continuing education (CE) requirement using exclusively online-based courses due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This policy will become effective immediately and will remain in effect until November 17, 2023. The Commission approved this policy to provide chiropractors a grace period to transition back to the required in-person continuing education. This policy will not be extended.

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 two years, 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 have been 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.