



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)**

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 27, 2021

TIME: 1:59 PM

WSR 21-04-050

Agency: Department of Health- Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Subject of possible rule making: WAC 246-817-580 Novel coronavirus disease 2019 screening. The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is considering permanent rule-making to allow dentists to delegate administration of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) screening tests to registered dental assistants, licensed expanded function dental auxiliaries, and licensed dental hygienists with appropriate supervision and demonstration of competency.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.260.040, 18.260.070, 18.29.050, 18.32.002 and 18.32.0365

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, screening for the disease is essential in dental practice. Dentistry produces large amounts of aerosols and it is important for dentists to appropriately screen patients prior to dental treatment. Delegation of COVID-19 screening test of patients assists dentists by reducing their workload to effectively continue dental care to patients. Knowing whether a patient is positive for COVID-19 will assist dentists in appropriate oral health treatment planning for the patient.

As dental procedures are proceeding during this pandemic, there is an influx of patients needing dental care and a greater need of the dental workforce. Allowing dentists to delegate COVID-19 screening tests with supervision to appropriately credentialed dental staff, will allow dentists to provide safe dental care to more patients.

On October 23, 2020 the commission approved emergency rule-making for COVID-19 screening tests. The commission intends for the emergency rule to be in place until the permanent rule is adopted.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) Collaborative rule-making

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

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(If necessary)

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Other:

Additional comments: Stakeholders may sign up for the program's interested parties list (GovDelivery) at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new>. All rulemaking notices will be emailed via GovDelivery. Rule development will take place in open public meetings prior to a formal rule proposal and comment period.

Date: 1/27/2021

Signature:

Name: Trina Crawford

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trina Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Title: Executive Director