

**Department Of Health Health Systems Quality Assurance
Washington State Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission
Policy/Procedure**

Title:	Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission – Revised Laser Policy and Procedure	Number: CH-8-11-11
Contact:	Program Manager	
Effective Date:	Revision Approved on August 11, 2011	
Approved:	Harold Rasmussen, DC, Chair Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission	

PURPOSE:

The Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (commission) has established the following policy and procedure regarding Class IIIB and IV lasers for use by Chiropractic Physicians and auxiliary staff as identified in WAC 246-808-510 and WAC 246-808-535.

POLICY:

The commission has approved the use of Class IIIB and IV lasers for the use by Chiropractic Physicians, and auxiliary staff, as an adjunct to the treatment of conditions within the scope of practice as defined in Chapter 18.25 RCW. This commission does not condone the use of lasers for treatment outside the scope of practice provided under Chapter 18.25 RCW. Therefore, a laser may not be used for purposes such as: body contouring, toe nail fungus, cellulite, and/or hair removal.

Chiropractors and auxiliary staff must be properly trained for the use of all low-level lasers and light therapy, and Class IIIB and IV lasers. Training is usually available from the vendors/manufacturers of these devices. Safety protocols provided by the vendor/manufacturer must be strictly adhered to. A minimum of six hours of training with certification from the vendor/manufacturer is mandatory for each user of these devices. At least one person at each facility that utilizes this device will serve as laser safety supervisor and is responsible for assuring all operating safety procedures are followed. Ultimate responsibility for the use of the laser is upon the Chiropractor. Furthermore, it is expected that:

- All individuals present during the operation of this device will wear protective eyewear containing specified protection for the wavelengths emitted by the laser.
- “Laser in Use” signs will be conspicuously placed at the entrance to the treatment area where people will use the laser device.
- During any laser procedure, any nonessential personnel will not be allowed into the treatment area.
- Class IIIB and above lasers will be stored in a locked cabinet when not in use.

This policy, “Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission – Revised Laser Policy and Procedure” CH-8-11-11 is effective August 11, 2011 and remains in effect until the commission withdraws the policy.

Harold Rasmussen, DC, Chair

Date