



# RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

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

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: March 10, 2023

TIME: 1:02 PM

WSR 23-07-065

**Agency:** Department of Health – Board of Massage

**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 246-830-201, 246-830-485, 246-830-490, 246-830-500, and 246-830-510 Massage therapists. The Department of Health (department) and the Board of Massage (board) are adopting amendments to existing sections of the massage therapist rules to correct the names of the national examinations, clarify the training requirements for somatic education and intraoral massage education, and clarify and modernize the language in the equipment and sanitation rule and the hygiene rule.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

New: None  
 Repealed: None  
 Amended: WAC 246-830-201, 246-830-485, 246-830-490, 246-830-500, and 246-830-510  
 Suspended: None

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 18.108.085, RCW 18.108.025

**Other authority:**

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 22-21-123 on 10/18/2022 (date).  
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version:

Changes made from the proposed version to the adopted version are clarifying and not substantive.

- WAC 246-830-201 (Examinations) was amended to correct grammatical errors by capitalizing the first letters of the name of the organization that administers the national examination and to also include the acronym of the national examination.
- WAC 246-830-500 (Equipment, linens, and sanitation) was amended to change the term "bacterial agent" to "antimicrobial agent."

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

Name: N/A  
 Address:  
 Phone:  
 Fax:  
 TTY:  
 Email:  
 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>0</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 on 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>5</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>5</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

**Date Adopted:** March 10, 2023

**Name:** Kristin Peterson, JD for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH  
| Heidi Williams, LMT

**Title:** Chief of Policy for Secretary of Health | Chairperson,  
Board of Massage

**Signature:**



AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-14-062, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17)

**WAC 246-830-201 Examination.** (1) An applicant for a massage therapist license must successfully pass one of the following examinations:

~~((1))~~ (a) The Federation of State Massage Therapy ~~((Board and))~~ Boards' massage and bodywork licensing examination (MBLEx); ~~((or~~

~~(2))~~ (b) The national certification examination for therapeutic massage ~~((therapy))~~ and bodywork; or

~~((3))~~ (c) A board-approved examination.

~~((4))~~ (2) An applicant who does not pass an examination after three attempts must provide proof to the board of having successfully completed additional clinical training or course work as determined by the board before being permitted three additional attempts to pass an exam.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-14-062, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17)

**WAC 246-830-485 Somatic education training program exemption.**

(1) The secretary may approve an exemption from this chapter for an individual who has completed a somatic education and training program that has a professional organization with a permanent administrative location that oversees the practice of somatic education and training and that has the following:

(a) Standards of practice;

(b) A training accreditation process;

(c) An instructor certification process;

(d) A therapist certification process; and

(e) A code of ethics or code of professional conduct.

(2) An authorized representative must submit a request for approval of a program on forms provided by the secretary.

(3) The secretary in consultation with the board will evaluate the education and training program and grant approval or denial. If denied, applicants will be given the opportunity to appeal through the brief adjudicative hearing process as authorized in chapter 246-10 WAC.

(4) The secretary may request from an approved education and training program, and the program must provide, updated information every three years to ensure the program's compliance with this rule. Approval may be withdrawn if the program fails to maintain the requirements of this rule. Where a determination has been made that the program no longer meets the requirements of this rule and a decision is made to withdraw approval, an approved program may appeal through the brief adjudicative proceeding as authorized in chapter 246-10 WAC.

(5) Organizations representing multiple training programs such as the International Alliance of Healthcare Educators, must obtain an exemption for each training program to ensure clarity regarding what is and is not exempt as a somatic education program.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-14-062, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17)

**WAC 246-830-490 Intraoral massage education and training.** A massage therapist may perform intraoral massage after completing specific intraoral massage education and training and after receiving an intraoral massage endorsement to their massage therapist license.

To qualify for an intraoral massage endorsement a massage therapist must complete the following education and training:

(1) Sixteen hours of direct supervised education and training, which must include:

(a) Hands-on intraoral massage techniques, cranial anatomy, physiology, and kinesiology;

(b) Pathology, cautions, and contraindications; and

(c) Hygienic practices, safety and sanitation. Hygienic practices, safety and sanitation includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Gloves must be worn during treatment and training which involves intraoral procedures;

(ii) Fresh gloves must be used for every intraoral client or patient contact;

(iii) Gloves that have been used for intraoral treatment must not be reused for any other purpose; and

(iv) Gloves must not be washed or reused for any purpose. The same pair of gloves must not be used, removed, and reused for the same client or patient at the same visit or for any other purpose.

(2) Supervised education and training must be obtained from a massage therapist endorsed in intraoral massage or from an individual who is licensed, certified, or registered and who has performed intraoral massage services within their authorized scope of practice.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-14-062, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17)

**WAC 246-830-500 Equipment, linens, and sanitation.** (1) A massage therapist using hydrotherapies including, but not limited to, cabinet, vapor or steam baths, whirlpool, hot tub or tub baths must have (~~available~~) adequate shower facilities available for client or patient use.

(2) All cabinets, showers, tubs, basins, massage or steam tables, hydrotherapy equipment, and all other fixed equipment used must be thoroughly cleansed using an (~~effective bactericidal~~) antimicrobial agent in accordance with the manufacturer directions.

(3) Combs, brushes, shower caps, mechanical, massage and hydrotherapy instruments, or bathing devices that come in contact with the body must be sterilized or disinfected by modern and approved methods and instruments. Devices, equipment or parts thereof having been used on one person must be sterilized or disinfected before being used on another person.

(4) Impervious material must cover, full length and width, all massage tables or pads, pillows, bolsters, and face cradles directly under (~~fresh sheets and linens or disposable paper sheets~~) single service linens or disposable covers. Impervious materials and surfaces must be disinfected after each use.

(5) A massage therapist must provide single service materials or clean (~~linen such as sheets, towels, gowns, pillow cases, and all other~~) linens used in the practice of massage. Linens must be stored in a sanitary manner.

(6) All (~~towels and~~) linens used for one client or patient must be laundered or cleaned before they are used on any other client or patient.

(7) All soiled linens must be immediately placed in a covered receptacle.

(8) Soap and clean towels must be provided by the massage therapist for use by massage therapists, clients or patients and any employees.

(9) All equipment must be clean, (~~well~~) in good repair, and maintained (~~and in good repair~~) to industry standards.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-14-062, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17)

**WAC 246-830-510 Hygiene.** To maintain a professional standard of hygiene in their practice, a massage therapist must:

(1) Cleanse (~~their~~) any exposed body part used for applying treatment, before and after each treatment, using a sink with (~~hot~~) water and soap or a chemical germicidal product;

(2) Maintain a barrier of unbroken skin on their exposed body part used for applying treatment during each treatment and in the case of broken skin use a finger cot, glove or chemical barrier product to cover the affected area during treatment; and

(3) Wear clothing that is clean.