



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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To Whom It May Concern,

The Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is adopting changes to chapter 246-808 WAC pertaining to chiropractic X-ray technicians. The adopted changes amend WAC 246-808-201, create new sections WAC 246-808-203, 246-808-205, 246-808-207, 246-808-209, 246-808-211, and repeal WAC 246-808-215.

In general, the revised chapter now:

- Creates new sections:
 - WAC 246-808-203 Definitions
 - WAC 246-808-205 Registration of chiropractic X-ray technicians,
 - WAC 246-808-207 Course requirements and approval
 - WAC 246-808-209 Continuing education for chiropractic X-ray technicians
 - WAC 246-808-211 Expired credential – Requirements for reactivating a chiropractic X-ray technician.
- Repeals WAC 246-808-215 Registration of chiropractic X-ray technicians.
- Clarifies that a chiropractor may also employ another chiropractor to operate X-ray equipment.
- Amends the number of training hours to obtain the credential from 48 hours to 72 hours, with 30 hours required to be in person.
- Amends the examination requirements to include a written and practical proficiency examination and decreases the passing grade from 75% to 70%.
- Creates additional exceptions for those who may obtain the chiropractic X-ray technician without obtaining the required training or examination.
- Clarifies when the first continuing education (CE) period is due.

- Adopts the health equity CE model rules. The commission is adopting the health equity model rules, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830, for chiropractic X-ray technicians to comply with RCW 43.70.631.
 - The rule as adopted does not change total hours, it adopts the model health equity CE rules by adding the required two hours in health equity CE every four years to the existing number of CE hours required for chiropractic X-ray technicians without changing the existing total number of CE hours required.
 - The goal of health equity CE is to equip health care workers with the skills to recognize and reduce health inequities in their daily work. The content of health equity trainings includes instruction on skills to address structural factors such as bias, racism, and poverty, that manifest as health inequities.
- Provides clarity about what is required to renew an expired chiropractic X-ray technician.
- Adopts additional training requirements for chiropractic X-ray technicians who have allowed their credential to expire for five years or longer.

The adopted amendments to chapter 246-808 WAC will become effective on **July 1, 2024**.

The adopted rules are different from the text of the proposed rule as it was published in the Washington State Register 23-20-026. The following clarifying and non-substantive changes were made to the proposed rules upon adoption:

- The proposed rule language was updated to include the repeal of WAC 246-808-215. The commission’s intent and the public’s understanding since the beginning of this rule making was that WAC 246-808-215 would be repealed and replaced with the new rules.
- Editorial changes were made to WAC 246-808-207, Course requirements and approval, as follows for consistency with the rule language:

WAC 246-808-207(c) A qualified instructor. A qualified instructor must verify that during the preceding five years their license has not been suspended, revoke, or otherwise conditioned or restricted and:

- (i) Be a diplomate of the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology;
- (ii) Be a ~~A~~ chiropractor who has been licensed for five years, with at least five years in practice that includes the taking of X-rays; or
- (iii) Be a ~~A~~ chiropractor who has on-campus or postgraduate faculty status in the field of radiology.

The following table is a summary of all comments received and the commission’s response:

Summary of Comments Received	Commission Discussion and Determination
<p>There are several reasons to be cautious about implementing these heightened requirements:</p> <p>Creating barriers to entry for aspiring technicians could disproportionately affect those from disadvantaged backgrounds, reducing diversity and exclusivity in the profession. Higher costs can be prohibitive for many individuals.</p> <p>By increasing the requirements, we risk adding to the medical field shortage, compromising patient care.</p> <p>Significant changes to the certification requirements might lead to inconsistency between technicians who have been certified under the old rules and those who go through the new process.</p> <p>Existing training institutions might not have the resources or faculty to upgrade their curriculum quickly resulting in programs, further limiting access.</p> <p>While formal training is important, practical, hands-on experience plays an equally vital role. Efforts could be better spent on creating mentorship programs or apprenticeships that foster real-world experience.</p> <p>Before implementing any drastic changes, it is essential to consider all feedback from all stakeholders, including current X-ray technicians, trainers, employers, and patients.</p>	<p>During the rules process current instructors were invited to share their experience and recommendations related to updated course requirements.</p> <p>Allowing a portion of the training to be completed online increases access and requires less time away from families, increasing access for those of disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <p>The commission determined an increase in the number of instruction hours is necessary to protect public health and safety by ensuring that chiropractic X-ray technicians receive adequate instruction. Right now, the rules require 48 hours to be completed in person. While the commission is proposing an increase of 24 total hours, only 30 of those hours must be completed in person.</p> <p>The commission determined to adopt the rules at the meeting but delay the adoption date until July 1, 2024.</p> <p>Any gaps that may be created between training programs could be resolved with continuing education and on the job training.</p> <p>The commission determined not to make any additional changes based on these comments.</p>
<p>The current X-ray certification program is already very comprehensive and prepares future chiropractic X-ray technicians to provide consistent and valuable service to chiropractic patients and offices. Logistically and economically, it is already challenging to send staff away from the office to</p>	<p>The commission discussed that if a chiropractor had been licensed for five years, they would meet the requirements of an approved course instructor.</p>

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<p>do on-site training. If the current proposal is enacted, I fear that fewer offices will provide timely, affordable screening and clinically relevant radiographs which benefit countless patients today.</p> <p>The online option during Covid made this training more accessible and available to many offices. It was a desire that this would continue further making this training more accessible and affordable to all offices, especially those that are remote.</p> <p>Each office utilizes a variety of equipment, it is the on-the-job training in positioning, patient interaction and safety protocols which are most critical in refining and completing the education of a proficient chiropractic X-ray technician. Additional documentation could be submitted by the supervising doctor to support this process.</p>	<p>The commission did not make any additional changes based on this comment.</p>
<p>This proposal will increase the time and money it takes for my small business to send an employee to X-ray school. This will impact my ability to afford training for my staff as the position of chiropractic assistant is very transient.</p>	<p>The commission completed both a significant analysis and a small business economic impact statement as part of these rules. The benefit of increasing the hours outweighs the increased cost of the course. The commission did not make any additional changes based on this comment.</p>
<p>Amend WAC 246-808-207(1)(c) to include a licensed Radiologic Technologist may instruct up to 50% of the course hours.</p>	<p>The commission would have no oversight of the individual or know if the individual received a complaint.</p> <p>In the proposed rule, WAC 246-808-207 (Course requirements and approval) was updated to specifically require topics that address the requirements listed in WAC 246-808-565 (Chiropractic radiographic standards).</p> <p>The proposed language broadens the definition of “approved instructor” from the current rule language in an attempt to facilitate new instructors being able to offer chiropractic X-ray technician educational programs</p>

Summary of Comments Received	Commission Discussion and Determination
	<p>without compromising the quality of the educational program, and without compromising the specific use of X-ray in the chiropractic setting as opposed to other health-care settings.</p> <p>The commission did not make any changes based on these comments.</p>
<p>Chiropractors in Washington were not aware that this proposal was being considered until at least the middle of 2023, and official notice was sent out via email on 9-29-23, but it only stated the CQAC was “considering” and “evaluating” credentialing requirements for chiropractic X-ray technicians and contained no specific proposals. The changes being proposed by CQAC represent far more than housekeeping changes.</p> <p>Chiropractors did not have adequate time to understand and process the impact of these substantive changes nor to communicate their concerns or suggest alternative approaches to the commission.</p>	<p>The commission used multiple strategies to ensure maximum public awareness and involvement in the rule development phase.</p> <p>No changes were made.</p>
<p>Amend WAC 246-808-205(2)(c) to include instruction of not less than 72 hours, <u>24</u> of which are in-person learning. This would fit in a framework of two weekends of 12-hours each.</p>	<p>The commission discussed this comment at the meeting, as well as during the rules process. 30 hours completed over 2 weekends is 7 hours per day and could be completed over 2 weekends. The commission determined that the change in hours was obtainable and important to ensure adequate instruction time. The commission did not make any changes.</p>
<p>Insert new section 246-808-207 (1) (d) allowing a chiropractor who has been licensed for five years, with at least five years in practice that included the taking of X-rays to provide 12 hours of the required in person training.</p>	<p>The commission did not amend the rule based on this comment because the proposed rule language would facilitate an instructor submitting a course for approval that aligns with the suggestion made by the commentator.</p>
<p>Supportive of the additional 30 hours of training, but the proposed rule does not clarify what must be covered in that additional time. Concerns regarding the individuals allowed to train chiropractic X-ray technologist.</p>	<p>The commission did not make any changes based on these comments because it believes the proposed rule language adequately describes the content of course instruction as well as clarifies course instructor</p>

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	requirements that a chiropractic X-ray technician must receive from an approved educational program.
The version of the OTS that was published does not include the repeal of WAC 246-808-215.	Based on this comment, the commission agreed to include the repeal of WAC 246-808-215 in the final proposed rule.
Recommend edits to WAC 246-808-207(c), Course requirements and approval, for consistency.	The commission approved these changes for consistency within the rule language.

Any person may petition the adoption or amendment of these rules in accordance with RCW 34.05.330.

For more information regarding these rules, you may contact Betty Moe by email at Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov or by phone at 360-236-2868..