



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

**Title of Interpretive Statement:** Hospital Staffing Committees | CHS-01-17-24.2

**Issuing Entity:** Department of Health

**Subject Matter:** The Department of Health's interpretation of RCW 70.41.420, as it relates to the establishment, composition, and responsibilities of hospital staffing committees.

**Effective Date:** June 21, 2024

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

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**WSR 24-14-022**

# Interpretive Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Hospital Staffing Committees	<i>Number:</i> CHS-01-17-24.2
<i>References:</i>	<a href="#">RCW 70.41.420</a> ; <a href="#">Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5236 (chapter 114, Laws of 2023)</a>	
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<i>Supersedes:</i>	CHS-01-17-24, effective January 1, 2024	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Megan Veith, Policy Director	

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (E2SSB) 5236 (chapter 114, Laws of 2023) amended RCW 70.41.420, the statute regarding hospital staffing committees at acute care and state hospitals. The Department of Health (Department) interprets [RCW 70.41.420](#), which describes the establishment, composition, and responsibilities of hospital staffing committees, to require the following:

- Each hospital was required to form a hospital staffing committee by January 1, 2024, by creating a new committee or assigning the functions of the hospital staffing committee to an existing nurse staffing committee.
- The appointment of committee members is part of the process of establishing a committee, which the statute required by January 1, 2024.
- Hospitals have authority to establish hospital staffing committees and can at the outset choose the total number of committee members. Once the hospital staffing committee is established, the hospital staffing committee chooses how many members will be on the committee as part of its charter.
- A hospital staffing committee must include at least 50% nursing staff, who must be nonsupervisory, nonmanagerial, and currently providing direct patient care.
- Nursing staff means registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), nursing assistants-certified (NA-Cs), and unlicensed assistive nursing personnel providing direct patient care.
- The individual(s) appointing nursing staff to a hospital staffing committee determines the number of appointees from each type of nursing staff (RN, LPN, NA-C, unlicensed assistive nursing personnel). Appointees can be from one, some, or all of the above-mentioned nursing staff types.
- Whether a particular nursing staff member is nonsupervisory and nonmanagerial depends on the particular job duties of the nursing staff member and will vary by hospital and position.
- If there is any collective bargaining representative representing any category of nursing staff at a hospital, then that representative (or representatives) selects all the nursing staff members of the hospital staffing committee that are selected to fulfill the 50% nursing requirement, even if there

are some nursing staff employed by the hospital that are not represented by any collective bargaining representative. The collective bargaining representative(s) may appoint non-represented nursing staff to the committee.

- The nursing staff members shall be selected jointly by all collective bargaining representatives if there are multiple collective bargaining representatives at a hospital.
- The nursing staff members of a hospital staffing committee shall be selected by their peers if there is no collective bargaining representative representing any category of nursing staff at the hospital.
- The hospital staffing committee may appoint as nonvoting members patient care staff other than nursing staff, physicians, physician assistants, and ARNPs not working as direct care RNs.

In summary, this statement describes the department's interpretation of RCW 70.41.420, as it relates to the establishment, composition, and responsibilities of hospital staffing committees. Additional information on hospital staffing committees, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the following department website: [Hospital Staffing Advisory Committee | Washington State Department of Health](#).