



February 10, 2025

Subject: Informative- Information on Agency Rulemaking January 16-31, 2025

Dear Tribal Leaders, Partners and Professionals,

We thank you for your partnership and guidance on the Washington State Department of Health rulemaking process. As an agency, we are committed to honoring the Tribal sovereignty of Washington's first Nations. As part of this commitment, and in appreciation of the governance structures of Tribal Nations, we welcome your expertise and collaboration in these current and upcoming rulemaking activities. We prioritize Tribal involvement early in the process to better ensure we are incorporating Tribal expertise, perspectives, and transparency in agency rulemaking.

In accordance with [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [Department of Health's \(WA-DOH\) Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), DOH invites you to review the list of rulemaking activities below and actively collaborate with staff on all topics that may be of interest.

We appreciate your feedback, if you have any suggestions or questions about how to best honor Tribal sovereignty and strengthen agency processes, please let us know.

To provide comments or requests for additional information, please contact:

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi)
Executive Director
Office of Tribal Public Health Relations
Candice.Wilson@doh.wa.gov
360-819-7626

Tami Thompson
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Tami.Thompson@doh.wa.gov
360-628-0096

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Candice Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi)
Executive Director OTPHR

CC: Michelle Davis, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Deputy Secretary, Prevention Safety & Health, Department of Health
Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH, Chief Science Officer, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Interim Secretary of Health, Department of Health

Department of Health/State Board of Health
Rule Report |
January 16-31, 2025

The following Department of Health (WA-DOH) and State Board of Health (SBOH) rules and documents were filed with the Washington State's Code Reviser Office January 16-31, 2025. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact the person on the forms.

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101)

Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Practitioners - Expanding opportunities for English based examination requirements. WA-DOH in consultation with the Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Advisory Committee (committee) is considering amending WAC 246-803-103 and WAC 246-803-240 to allow the acceptance of the Occupational English Test providing Acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner licensing applicants who have completed the required National Certification Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) examinations in languages other than English. Other amendments relevant to application and examination requirements in chapter 246-803 WAC may also be considered. [Filed as WSR 25-04-007.](#)

Proposed Rules (CR-102)

Licensed Counselors - Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers. WA-DOH is proposing permanent rules to implement new requirements in chapter 246-809 WAC. The proposed rules establish standards for the licensed counselor supervisor directory program, supervision, practice on a pending license, and the supervision stipend program. [Filed as WSR 25-04-016.](#)

Expedited Rulemaking (CR-105)

No Filings.

Adopted Rules (CR-103P)

Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. The Board of Physical Therapy (board) is updating existing rules to reference amendments to the most recent Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Commission (PTLC) rules. The board has adopted an updated effective date in WAC 246-915A-010 to match the date of the most recent PTLC rules to comply with RCW 18.74.500 Article IX(2). [Filed as WSR 25-03-095.](#)

Prescription Drug Label Accessibility Standards. The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission adopted new accessible labeling rules to establish requirements for all dispensing facilities [i.e., pharmacies, nonresident pharmacies, healthcare entities (HCE), hospital pharmacy associated clinics (HPAC)] and dispensing practitioners (i.e., health professionals with prescriptive authority in the State of Washington). The adopted rule addresses establish that all practitioners and facilities in the state of Washington dispensing prescription medications shall provide information to the patient on the prescription container in a format that can be accurately comprehended by the patient and inform patients about the availability of accessibility services.

The adopted rule creates four new sections WACs 246-945-026, 246-945-027, 246-945-028, and 246-945-029. WAC 246-945-015 is also amended to inform dispensing practitioners that they must comply with the new sections of rule. [Filed as WSR 25-04-003.](#)

Emergency Rules (CR-103E)

Home Care Aide and Nursing Assistant-Certified - Alternate certification time frames.

WA-DOH established alternate certification time frames for individuals working toward certification as a home care aide or nursing assistant-certified. This includes amending WAC 246-980-025, 246-980-030, 246-980-040, 246-980-065 and adopting a new rule, WAC 246-980-011. The rules allow workers impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic more time to complete requirements while training, testing, and credentialing capacity issues are being resolved. This is the seventh and anticipated final emergency rule. [Filed as WSR 25-04-067.](#)

Licensed Counselors – Supervisory directory and standards for mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, and social worker associates.

WA-DOH is continuing emergency rules that establish new sections WAC 246-809-020, 246-809-070, 246-809-071, and 246-809-072 to establish a new program to facilitate placement of associates with qualified supervisors (referred to as the “directory”), establish requirements for individual providers and facilities to be listed in the directory, and establish minimum standards for supervision of associates. [Filed as WSR 25-03-096.](#)

Substance use disorder professionals and trainees – Reducing barriers to joining the workforce and streamlining the credentialing process. WA-DOH amended the substance use disorder professionals and substance use disorder professional trainees rules in chapter 246-811 WAC to reduce barriers to entering and remaining in the behavioral health workforce, to streamline the substance use disorder professional and trainee credentialing process, and to implement recent legislation. [Filed as WSR 25-04-055.](#)

Miscellaneous Filings

Washington Medical Commission - Policy Statement, Clinical Experience Assessment Policy | POL 2025-01. [Filed as WSR 25-04-073.](#)

SBOH - Revised 2025 Meeting Schedule. [Filed as WSR 25-04-052.](#)