

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# Accounting and Reporting Manual for Hospitals Chapter 0000 Introduction



**DOH 689-188 January 2025**

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## Background

0001

Uniform accounting and reporting for hospitals in Washington began with the creation of the Washington State Hospital Commission in 1973. The Washington State Hospital Commission Accounting and Reporting Manual for Hospitals went into effect on October 1, 1974.

The Washington State Hospital Commission ended in 1989. As a result, the statewide hospital data system and requirements for a uniform accounting and reporting system transferred to the Department of Health.

This Manual borrows from the fifth edition of the "Audit and Accounting Guide for Health Care Entities" of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). This is the fourth revision of the Washington State Department of Health Accounting and Reporting Manual for Hospitals.

## Approach To Development of The Manual

0002

- The state adopted this Manual on September 30, 1974 and it went into effect October 1, 1974.
- The second edition released in 1983 to reflect new cost centers, updates to units of measure, and changes in health industry practices.
- The third edition released because of changes in health industry practices, the existing cost center structure, and the release of a new AICPA audit guide.
- This edition (fourth) includes additions to the uniform accounting and reporting system. These additions reflect hospital financial reporting requirements in [Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1272](#) (chapter 162, Laws of 2021).

## Manual Arrangement

0003

This Manual divides into chapters, sections, and subsections. Chapter titles are at the top of each page and each chapter has a number in the thousands. For example, the System of Accounts chapter is 2000. Each section within that chapter has a number within the 2000 series. Subsections have decimal numbers following the section number they relate. A detailed table of contents is at the beginning of each chapter.

# Manual Revisions

0004

From time to time, it is necessary to revise this Manual to update, add, or delete material. It is also sometimes necessary to deliver rulings and interpretations made by the Department of Health after publishing the Manual. We will issue and post revisions as dated attachments. Each revision will begin with a transmittal letter that describes the major changes within a revision.

Attached to the transmittal letter will be:

1. section-by-section descriptions of the changes;
2. revised Manual pages.



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