

Significant Legislative Rule Analysis (SA) for Rules Concerning WAC 246-919-430
(physicians) and
WAC 246-918-172 (physician assistants)

Section 1. What is the scope of the rule?

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) is proposing amending the physician rules and creating a new section in the physician assistant rules to allow the Commission to obtain additional information at the time of renewal.

The proposed rules directly impact licensing activities and require additional information during the renewal process. This will result in the Commission receiving detailed current professional practice information. Examples of this information are:

- Board certification and type
- Current practice setting (i.e., group, solo, hospital)
- Current practice specialty or interest (i.e., cosmetic surgery, orthopedic, family practice)

The Commission intends to use this information to assist in assessing critical needs related to underserved areas, rural health, shortages in specialties, etc., and developing potential resolutions to address these needs. In addition, the Commission frequently receives requests from the public and legislators for practice and specialty information that is currently not available. These proposed rules will provide a means to obtain this information.

Section 2. What are the general goals and specific objectives of the proposed rule's authorizing statute?

RCW 18.71.017 and RCW 18.71A.020 authorize the Commission to adopt such rules deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the chapters.

The statutes' objective is to promote and protect public health of the citizens of Washington State.

The Commission has determined that specific practice data is needed to meet this objective, and will be required at license renewal. Current professional practice information will identify underserved areas and medical trends, assess provider resources for emergency planning, and assist in developing rules and policies that promote quality healthcare.

Section 3. What is the justification for the proposed rule package?

Rules are needed in order to make the requirements enforceable and to obtain consistent data. There are no alternatives to rulemaking. Examples of the required information are:

- Board certification and type
- Current practice setting (i.e., group, solo, hospital)

- Current practice specialty or interest (i.e., cosmetic surgery, orthopedic, family practice)

Section 4. What are the costs and benefits of each rule included in the rules package? What is the total probable cost and total probable benefit of the rule package.

1. Identification of total number of rules in package

2

2. Non –significant rule Identification Table

There are no non-significant rules.

3. Significant Rule Analysis

A. WAC 246-919-430 (physicians) Renewal general requirements

The Commission is proposing amending the physician rules to obtain additional information at the time of renewal, and to change the rule title to clarify that this section is related to license renewal.

Analysis: At this time physician licensees are only required to attest that they have completed the required continuing education when they renew their license. When adopted, the amended rule will also require physician licensees to provide current practice information when they renew. The Commission assumes that it will only take a few moments for physicians to provide the requested information when they renew their license every two years.

B. WAC 246-918-172 (physician assistants) Renewal general requirements

The Commission is proposing creating a new section in the physician assistant rules to obtain additional information at the time of renewal.

Analysis: At this time physician assistant licensees are only required to attest that they have completed the required continuing education when they renew their license. When adopted, the new rule will also require physician assistant licensees to provide current practice information when they renew. The Commission assumes that it will only take a few moments for physician assistants to provide the requested information when they renew their license every two years.

4. Rule Package Cost-Benefit Conclusion

Cost summary

These proposed rules will not create any additional burden on the licensees, but this information will be required to renew a license.

Benefit summary

The Commission has determined that this information will be valuable to identify underserved areas and medical trends (such as lack of specific specialties in an area, or low physician/patient ratios in an area), to assess provider resources for emergency planning and to develop rules and policies promoting quality health care.

Section 5. What alternative versions of the rule did we consider? Is the proposed rule the least burdensome approach?

Descriptions of alternatives considered

The alternative is to request the current practice setting information on a voluntary basis, which would provide inconsistent data that is not verifiable. The Commission determined this is not an option.

Least burdensome determination

These proposed rules will not create any additional burden on the licensees, but this information will be required to renew a license.

DOH staff held a public workshop and placed this topic on several Business Meeting agendas. No public comments have been received regarding this topic.

Section 6. Did you determine that the rule does not require anyone to take an action that violates another federal or state law?

The rule does not require those to whom it applies to take an action that violates requirements of federal or state law.

Section 7. Did we determine that the rule does not impose more stringent performance requirements on private entities than on public entities unless the difference is required in federal or state law?

The rule does not impose more stringent performance requirements on private entities than on public entities.

Section 8. Did you determine if the rule differs from any federal regulation or statute applicable to the same activity or subject matter and, if so, did we determine that the difference is justified by an explicit state statute or by substantial evidence that the difference is necessary?

The rule does not differ from any applicable federal regulation or statute.

Section 9. Did we demonstrate that the rule has been coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with other federal, state, and local laws applicable to the same activity or subject matter?

There are no other applicable laws.