

WAC 246-922-415 Participation in approved substance abuse monitoring program. (1) The podiatric practitioner who has been investigated by the board may accept board referral into the approved substance abuse monitoring program. Referral may occur in lieu of disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 or as a result of a board order as final disposition of a disciplinary action. The podiatric practitioner:

(a) Shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation is to be performed by a health care professional(s) with expertise in chemical dependency;

(b) Shall enter into a contract with the approved substance abuse monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which shall include, but not be limited to: The podiatric practitioner:

(i) Shall undergo intensive substance abuse treatment by an approved treatment facility;

(ii) Shall agree to abstain from the use of all mind-altering substances, including alcohol, except for medications prescribed by an authorized prescriber, as defined in RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.101. Said prescriber shall notify the monitoring program of all drugs prescribed within fourteen days of the date care was provided;

(iii) Must complete the prescribed aftercare/continuing care program of the intensive treatment facility. This may include individual and/or group psychotherapy;

(iv) Must cause the treatment counselor(s) and authorized prescriber(s) to provide reports to the appropriate monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment prognosis, goals, drugs prescribed, etc;

(v) Shall submit to random drug screening, with observed specimen collection, as specified by the approved monitoring program;

(vi) Shall attend podiatric practitioner support groups facilitated by health care professionals and/or twelve-step group meetings as specified by the contract;

(vii) Shall comply with specified employment conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract;

(viii) Shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the board if the podiatric practitioner does not comply with the requirements of the contract;

(c) Is responsible for paying the costs of the physical and psychosocial evaluation, substance abuse/dependency treatment, random urine screens and other personal expenses incurred in compliance with the contract;

(d) May be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and 18.130.180 if the podiatric practitioner does not consent to be referred to the approved monitoring program, does not comply with specified practice restrictions, or does not successfully complete the program.

(2) A podiatric practitioner who is not being investigated by the board or subject to current disciplinary action, not currently being monitored by the board for substance abuse or dependency, may voluntarily participate in the approved substance abuse monitoring program without being referred by the board. Such voluntary participants shall not be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and 18.130.180 for their substance abuse/dependency, and shall not have their participation made known to the board if they continue to satis-

factorily meet the requirements of the approved monitoring program. The podiatric practitioner:

(a) Shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation will be performed by a health care professional with expertise in chemical dependency;

(b) Shall enter into a contract with the approved substance abuse monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which shall include, but not be limited to: The podiatric practitioner:

(i) Shall undergo intensive substance abuse treatment by an approved treatment facility;

(ii) Shall agree to abstain from the use of all mind-altering substances, including alcohol, except for medications prescribed by an authorized prescriber, as defined in RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.101. Said prescriber shall notify the monitoring program of all drugs prescribed within fourteen days of the date care was provided;

(iii) Must complete the prescribed aftercare/continuing care program of the intensive treatment facility. This may include individual and/or group therapy;

(iv) Must cause the treatment counselor(s) and authorized prescriber(s) to provide reports to the approved monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment prognosis, goals, drugs prescribed, etc;

(v) Shall submit to random drug screening, with observed specimen collection, as specified by the approved monitoring program;

(vi) Shall attend podiatric practitioner support groups facilitated by a health care professional and/or twelve-step group meetings as specified by the contract;

(vii) Shall comply with specified employment conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract;

(viii) Shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the board if the podiatric practitioner does not comply with the requirements of the contract. The podiatric practitioner may be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and 18.130.180 for noncompliance with the contract or if he/she does not successfully complete the program;

(c) Is responsible for paying the costs of the physical and psychosocial evaluation, substance abuse/dependency treatment, random urine screens, and other personal expenses incurred in compliance with the contract.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.22.015 and chapter 18.22 RCW. WSR 94-14-082, § 246-922-415, filed 7/5/94, effective 8/5/94.]