

WAC 246-840-465 Definitions. The following definitions apply in WAC 246-840-460 through 246-840-4990, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Aberrant behavior" means behavior that indicates misuse, diversion, or substance use disorder. This includes, but is not limited to, multiple early refills or renewals, or obtaining prescriptions for the same or similar drugs from more than one practitioner or other health care provider.

(2) "Acute pain" means the normal, predicted physiological response to a noxious chemical, thermal, or mechanical stimulus, and typically is associated with invasive procedures, trauma, and disease. Acute pain is considered to be six weeks or less in duration.

(3) "Biological specimen test" or "biological specimen testing" means testing of bodily fluids or other biological samples including, but not limited to, urine or hair for the presence of various drugs and metabolites.

(4) "Chronic pain" means a state in which pain persists beyond the usual course of an acute disease or healing of an injury, or that may or may not be associated with an acute or chronic pathologic process, that causes continuous or intermittent pain more than twelve weeks in duration, lasting months or years. Chronic pain includes pain resulting from cancer or treatment in a patient who is two years post completion of curative anti-cancer treatment with no current evidence of disease.

(5) "Comorbidities" means a preexisting or coexisting physical or psychiatric disease or condition.

(6) "Episodic care" means medical care provided by an advanced registered nurse practitioner other than the designated primary care practitioner in the acute care setting, for example, urgent care or emergency department.

(7) "High dose" means ninety milligram morphine equivalent dose (MED), or more, per day.

(8) "High-risk" means a category of patient at increased risk of morbidity or mortality, such as from comorbidities, polypharmacy, history of substance use disorder or abuse, aberrant behavior, high dose opioid prescription, or the use of any central nervous system depressant.

(9) "Hospice" means a model of care that focuses on relieving symptoms and supporting patients with a life expectancy of six months or less.

(10) "Hospital" means any institution, place, building, or agency licensed by the department under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW or designated as a state hospital under chapter 72.23 RCW, to provide accommodations, facilities, and services over a continuous period of twenty-four hours or more, for observation, diagnosis, or care of two or more individuals not related to the operator who are suffering from illness, injury, deformity, or abnormality, or from any other condition for which obstetrical, medical, or surgical services would be appropriate for care or diagnosis.

(11) "Inpatient" means a person who has been admitted to a hospital for more than twenty-four hours.

(12) "Medication assisted treatment (MAT)" means the use of pharmacologic therapy, often in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, for the treatment of substance use disorders.

(13) "Morphine equivalent dose (MED)" means a conversion of various opioids to a morphine equivalent dose by the use of accepted conversion tables or calculators.

(14) "Multidisciplinary pain clinic" means a facility that provides comprehensive pain management and includes care provided by multiple available disciplines, practitioners, or treatment modalities.

(15) "Nonoperative pain" means pain which does not occur as a result of surgery.

(16) "Opioid analgesic" or "opioid" means a drug that is either an opiate derived from the opium poppy, or opiate-like semi-synthetic or synthetic drugs. Examples include morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, fentanyl, meperidine, and methadone.

(17) "Palliative care" means care that maintains or improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing serious, advanced, or life-threatening illness. With palliative care, particular attention is given to the prevention, assessment, and treatment of pain and other symptoms, and to the provision of psychological, spiritual, and emotional support.

(18) "Pain" means an unpleasant sensory or emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage.

(19) "Pain management clinic" means a publicly or privately owned facility for which a majority of patients are receiving chronic pain treatment.

(20) "Perioperative pain" means acute pain that occurs as the result of surgery.

(21) "Prescription monitoring program" or "PMP" means the Washington state prescription monitoring program authorized under chapter 70.225 RCW.

(22) "Practitioner" means an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW, a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A or 18.57A RCW, or a podiatric physician licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW.

(23) "Risk assessment tools" means validated tools or questionnaires appropriate for identifying a patient's level of risk for substance use or misuse.

(24) "Subacute pain" means a continuation of pain, of six to twelve weeks in duration.

(25) "Substance use disorder" means a primary, chronic, neurobiological disease with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. Substance use disorder is not the same as physical dependence or tolerance that are normal physiological consequences of extended opioid therapy for pain. It is characterized by behaviors that include, but are not limited to, impaired control over drug use, craving, compulsive use, or continued use despite harm.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.800 and 2017 c 297. WSR 18-20-086, § 246-840-465, filed 10/1/18, effective 11/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.79.400. WSR 11-10-064, § 246-840-465, filed 5/2/11, effective 7/1/11.]