

WAC 246-817-906 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply to WAC 246-817-901 through 246-817-980 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 dentist or other health care practitioner.

(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 tests of urine, hair or other biological samples for 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 over months or years.

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

(6) "High dose" means ninety milligram MED or more, per day.

(7) "High-risk" is 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.

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

(9) "Hospital" means any institution, place, building, or agency licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW, or designated 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.

(10) "Low-risk" means a category of patient at low risk of opioid induced morbidity or mortality, based on factors and combinations of factors such as medical and behavioral comorbidities, polypharmacy, and dose of opioids of less than 50 MED.

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

(12) "Moderate-risk" means a category of patient at moderate risk of opioid induced morbidity or mortality, based on factors and combinations of factors such as medical and behavioral comorbidities, polypharmacy, past history of substance use disorder or abuse, aberrant behavior, and dose of opioids between 50-90 MED.

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

(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 acute pain which does not occur as a result of surgery.

(16) "Opioid analgesic" or "opioid" means a drug that is used to alleviate moderate to severe pain that is either an opiate derived from the opium poppy or opiate-like that is a semi-synthetic or synthetic drug. 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) "Perioperative pain" means acute pain that occurs as the result of surgery.

(20) "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.

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

(22) "Subacute pain" is considered to be a continuation of pain, of six to twelve weeks in duration.

(23) "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 18.32.002, 18.32.0365, 18.32.800 and 2017 c 297. WSR 19-02-043, § 246-817-906, filed 12/26/18, effective 1/26/19.]