

**WAC 246-320-026 Department role—Exemptions, interpretations, alternative methods.** This section outlines the department's responsibilities and actions in response to requests for interpretations, exemptions and alternative methods.

(1) The department may exempt a hospital from complying with portions of this chapter when:

(a) The exemption will not change the purpose and intent of chapter 70.41 RCW or this chapter;

(b) Patient safety, health or well being is not threatened;

(c) Fire and life safety regulations, infection control standards or other codes or regulations would not be reduced; and

(d) Any structural integrity of the building would not occur.

(2) The department will write an interpretation of a rule after receiving complete information relevant to the interpretation.

(3) The department may approve a hospital to use alternative materials, designs, and methods if the documentation and supporting information:

(a) Meets the intent and purpose of these rules; and

(b) Is equivalent to the methods prescribed in this chapter.

(4) The department will keep copies of each exemption, alternative, or interpretation issued.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.41 RCW and RCW 43.70.040. WSR 09-07-050, § 246-320-026, filed 3/11/09, effective 4/11/09.]