- WAC 246-853-765 Special populations—Patients twenty-five years of age or under, pregnant patient, and aging populations. (1) Patients twenty-five years of age or under. In the treatment of pain for patients twenty-five years of age or under, the osteopathic physician shall treat pain in a manner equal to that of an adult but must account for the weight of the patient and reduce the dosage prescribed accordingly.
- (2) Pregnant patients. The osteopathic physician shall not discontinue the use of MAT opioids, such as methadone or buprenorphine, by a pregnant patient without oversight by the MAT prescribing practitioner. The osteopathic physician shall weigh carefully the risks and benefits of opioid detoxification during pregnancy.
- (3) Aging populations. As people age, their tolerance and metabolizing of opioids may change. The osteopathic physician shall consider the distinctive needs of patients who are sixty-five years of age or older and who have been on chronic opioid therapy or who are initiating opioid treatment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.800, 18.57A.800 and 2017 c 297. WSR 18-20-087, § 246-853-765, filed 10/1/18, effective 11/1/18.]