

WSR 23-18-005
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Washington Medical Commission)
[Filed August 23, 2023, 3:34 p.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Removing postgraduate medical training barriers to licensing; WAC 246-919-330 Postgraduate medical training. The Washington medical commission (commission) is considering amending WAC 246-919-330(4) to remove two requirements that have become a barrier to licensure.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 18.71.017 and 18.130.050.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The commission is considering amending WAC 246-919-330 to eliminate the outdated requirement for consecutive years of training in no more than two programs. This change would remove a barrier for qualified applicants to obtain licensure.

Due to the practitioner shortage, multiple pathways to board certification eligibility have been opened by the University of Washington (UW), the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Multiple ABMS boards have programs that specifically target international medical graduates and place them in four-year training programs, with only years one and three [being] ACGME accredited. The outcome of these programs would be physicians who are ineligible for licensure through the commission, despite four years of postgraduate training through UW. The first graduates of those programs will complete their training in June 2023.

Separately and recently, applications have come through where the physician has six years of postgraduate training from their efforts to become dual licensed as a physician and a dentist. This clause has resulted in denial of those applications since parts of the training are accredited under ACGME and the rest under the Commission on Dental Accreditation, the dental profession equivalent of ACGME.

The commission has also filed an emergency rule on WAC 246-919-330(4) under WSR 23-15-056 on July 13, 2023, to address this issue while permanent rule making is in process.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: None.

Process for Developing New Rule: Collaborative rule making.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Amelia Boyd, Program Manager, P.O. Box 47866, Olympia, WA 98504, phone 360-918-6336, TTY 711, email amelia.boyd@wmc.wa.gov, website <https://wmc.wa.gov>.

Additional comments: To join the interested parties email list, please visit https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOH_153.

August 21, 2023
Melanie de Leon
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