

WSR 23-21-070
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed October 13, 2023, 7:59 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Dental hygiene health equity continuing education (CE) requirements. The department of health (department) is considering creating a new rule in chapter 246-815 WAC, Dental hygiene health equity training requirements. The department is considering adopting the health equity CE model rules, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830, to comply with RCW 43.70.613. The department will also consider whether additional CE hours and course topics should be included.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 18.29.130; and ESSB 5229 (chapter 276, Laws of 2021) codified as RCW 43.70.613.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: By January 1, 2024, RCW 43.70.613(1) requires the rule-making authority for each health profession credentialed under RCW 18.130.040 with a CE requirement to adopt rules requiring completion of health equity CE training at least once every four years.

RCW 43.70.613 (3) (b) also directed the department to create model rules establishing minimum standards for health equity CE programs. The department adopted health equity CE model rules on November 23, 2022, under WSR 22-23-167 establishing minimum standards. Any rules developed by the department for a specific health profession must meet or exceed the minimum standards found in WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830.

The goal of health equity CE training is to ensure that health care professionals complete health equity training and that the content of the health equity trainings include instruction on skills to address structural factors, such as bias, racism, and poverty, which manifest as health inequities. The objective of requiring health equity training is to enable health care professionals to care effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities, varying race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, religion, age, ability, socioeconomic status, and other categories of identity.

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 Bruce Bronoske, Jr., P.O. Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852, phone 360-236-4843, fax 360-236-2901, TTY 711, email bruce.bronoske@doh.wa.gov, website www.doh.wa.gov.

Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in the drafting of the proposed rules. The department will be conducting rules workshops with interested parties and subject matter experts. The department will use existing GovDelivery lists and other known contact information to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language. To find out more information about our rule making, visit www.doh.wa.gov. To subscribe to GovDelivery, please visit www.doh.wa.gov, and select the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the page. After signing in, please click open the box labeled "Health Systems Quality Assurance." Next, click open the box labeled "Health Professions" and then click on "Dental Hygiene." You

may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to receive information related to that specific profession.

October 13, 2023
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