

WSR 24-24-026

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Filed November 22, 2024, 4:41 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Increasing the Washington physician health program (WPHP) surcharge assessed to physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, dentists, and veterinarians, and correcting the HEAL-WA fee for speech-language pathologists.

The department of health (department) is proposing amendments to WAC 246-817-990, 246-853-990, 246-918-990, 246-919-990, 246-922-990, and 246-933-990 to update fee changes made by HB 1972 (chapter 15, Laws of 2024), codified in RCW 18.71.310, 18.71A.020, 18.57.015, 18.22.250, 18.32.534, and 18.92.047. The department is also proposing to correct an error in the fee table in WAC 246-828-990 to ensure it accurately reflects the fees that are being charged for the speech-language pathologist inactive license.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: HB 1972 increased the surcharge that supports the WPHP for physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, dentists, and veterinarians. With the exception of dentists, the increase was effective June 6, 2024. The increase for dentists will be effective January 1, 2026. WPHP is supported by a license surcharge contributed by each of the health professions contracted with WPHP. The increase in the surcharge is needed to keep up with the cost of administering the program.

In 2013, the department amended WAC 246-828-990 and added an annual surcharge to speech-language pathologist license types to support the University of Washington's Health Evidence Resource for Washington State (HEAL-WA) online resource library, as required by RCW 43.70.110. The department filed WSR 13-21-077, which added the HEAL-WA surcharge to the initial license and renewal for speech-language pathologists. However, the HEAL-WA surcharge was mistakenly left out of WAC 246-828-990 for the inactive license. In practice, the department has been charging the HEAL-WA surcharge for speech-language pathologist inactive licenses, which has led to confusion amongst those seeking an inactive license regarding the amount they owe. The department is proposing rule making to correct this error by including the HEAL-WA surcharge in the rule language for the inactive speech-language pathologist license.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The proposed amendments will align the rules with statutory changes that increase the WPHP surcharge fee assessed to physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians, podiatric physicians, dentists, and veterinarians.

The proposed amendments to WAC 246-828-990 will ensure that the section accurately reflects the fees charged for each license type, avoid confusion regarding the correct surcharge amount for the inactive license, and promote transparency in the licensing process.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 18.71.310, 18.71A.020, 18.57.015, 18.22.250, 18.32.534, 18.92.047, and 43.70.110.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 18.71.310, 18.71A.020, 18.57.015, 18.22.250, 18.32.534, 18.92.047, and 43.70.110.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of health, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Heather Cantrell, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-236-4637; Implementation: Shawna Fox, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-236-4700; and Enforcement: Blake Maresh, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-236-4700.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The expedited rule-making process is appropriate because the proposed amendments align the rules with the statute. It is necessary to implement the legislation appropriately.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Heather Cantrell, Department of Health, P.O. Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850, phone 360-236-4637, email https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/policyreview/, HSQAfeerules@doh.wa.gov, BEGINNING date and time of this filing, AND RECEIVED BY February 3, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

November 22, 2024
Kristin Peterson, JD
Chief of Policy
for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health

OTS-5795.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-07-057, filed 3/9/23, effective 6/1/23)

WAC 246-817-990 Dentist fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, except faculty and resident licenses.

(2) Faculty and resident licenses must be renewed every year on July 1 as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC.

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee through December 31, 2025	Fee on and after January 1, 2026
Original application by examination*		
Initial application	\$500.00	<u>\$500.00</u>
Original application - Without examination		
Initial application	500.00	<u>500.00</u>
Initial license	500.00	<u>500.00</u>
Faculty license application	500.00	<u>500.00</u>
Resident license application	115.00	<u>115.00</u>

Title of Fee	<u>Fee through December 31, 2025</u>	<u>Fee on and after January 1, 2026</u>
Active license renewal(±)		
Renewal	365.00	<u>365.00</u>
Surcharge - Impaired dentist	50.00	<u>70.00</u>
Late renewal penalty	185.00	<u>185.00</u>
Expired license reissuance	300.00	<u>300.00</u>
Inactive license renewal(±)		
Renewal	125.00	<u>125.00</u>
Surcharge - Impaired dentist	50.00	<u>70.00</u>
Late renewal penalty	50.00	<u>50.00</u>
Retired active license renewal		
Renewal	150.00	<u>150.00</u>
Surcharge - Impaired dentist	50.00	<u>70.00</u>
Late renewal penalty	75.00	<u>75.00</u>
Duplicate license	15.00	<u>15.00</u>
Certification of license	25.00	<u>25.00</u>
Anesthesia permit		
Initial application	150.00	<u>150.00</u>
Renewal - (Three-year renewal cycle)	160.00	<u>160.00</u>
Late renewal penalty	80.00	<u>80.00</u>
Expired permit reissuance	50.00	<u>50.00</u>
On-site inspection fee	To be determined by future rule adoption.	<u>To be determined by future rule adoption.</u>

* In addition to the initial application fee above, applicants for licensure via examination will be required to submit a separate application and examination fee directly to the dental testing agency accepted by the dental quality assurance commission.

OTS-5772.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-07-057, filed 3/9/23, effective 6/1/23)

WAC 246-828-990 Hearing aid specialist, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, and speech-language pathology assistant fees and renewal cycle. (1) Credentials must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in WAC 246-12-030.

(2) Practitioners must pay the following nonrefundable fees:

Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist	
Fee Type:	Fee
Interim permit	
Application	\$165.00
Permit	140.00
Initial license	
Application and license	175.00
HEAL-WA* surcharge	16.00
Active license renewal	

Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist

Fee Type:	Fee
Renewal	45.00
Late renewal penalty	45.00
HEAL-WA* surcharge	16.00
Expired license reissuance	140.00
Inactive license	
Renewal	60.00
<u>HEAL-WA* surcharge</u>	<u>16.00</u>
Expired license reissuance	90.00
Verification of license	25.00
Duplicate license	10.00

* Surcharge applies to speech-language pathologists only. HEAL-WA is the health resources for Washington online library. See RCW 43.70.110.

Hearing Aid Specialist

Fee Type:	Fee
Initial license	
Application and license	\$175.00
Hearing aid specialist practical exam for Washington hearing society applicants	350.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	45.00
Late renewal penalty	45.00
Expired license reissuance	136.00
Inactive license renewal	
Renewal	56.00
Expired license reissuance	86.00
Verification of license	25.00
Duplicate license	10.00

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Fee Type:	Fee
Initial credential	
Application	\$55.00
Active credential renewal	
Renewal	15.00
Late renewal penalty	15.00
Expired credential reissuance	50.00
Inactive credential renewal	
Renewal	50.00
Expired credential reissuance	50.00
Verification of credential	25.00
Duplicate credential	10.00

OTS-5785.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-14-032, filed 6/25/24, effective 7/26/24)

WAC 246-853-990 Osteopathic fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the physician's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, except postgraduate training limited licenses.

(2) Postgraduate training limited licenses must be renewed every year to correspond to program dates.

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged for osteopathic physicians:

Title of Fee	Fee
Original application	
Endorsement application	\$375.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	375.00
Late renewal penalty	190.00
Expired license reissuance	250.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Inactive license renewal	
Renewal	310.00
Expired license reissuance	225.00
Late renewal penalty	155.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Retired active license renewal	
Renewal	195.00
Late renewal penalty	100.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Endorsement/state exam application	500.00
Reexam	100.00
Verification of license	50.00
Limited license	
Application	285.00
Renewal	265.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance use disorder monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Temporary permit application	70.00
Duplicate certificate	20.00

OTS-5786.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-21-052, filed 10/10/19, effective 2/1/20)

WAC 246-918-990 Physician assistants fees and renewal cycle.

(1) Licenses must be renewed every two years on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) The applicant or licensee must pay the following nonrefundable fees:

Title of Fee	Fee
Physician assistants:	
Original application	
Application	\$50.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	16.00
Washington physician health program surcharge	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Active license renewal	
Two-year renewal	247.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	32.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((100.00)) <u>140.00</u>
Late renewal fee	124.00
Expired license reissuance	50.00
Retired active license renewal	
Two-year renewal	35.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((100.00)) <u>140.00</u>
Late renewal fee	35.00
Duplicate license	15.00

* The Washington physician health program surcharge (RCW 18.71A.020(3)) is assessed at \$((~~50.00~~)) 70.00 per year, and the University of Washington (UW) HEAL-WA web portal access fee (RCW 43.70.110) assessed at \$16.00 per year.

** The Washington physician health program surcharge is assessed at \$((~~50.00~~)) 70.00 per year.

OTS-5787.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-21-052, filed 10/10/19, effective 2/1/20)

WAC 246-919-990 Physician and surgeon fees and renewal cycle.

(1) Licenses must be renewed every two years on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2, except postgraduate training limited licenses.

(2) Postgraduate training limited licenses must be renewed every year to correspond to the program's date.

(3) A retired active physician who resides and practices in Washington and obtains or renews a retired active license is exempt from

all licensing fees except for the impaired physician program surcharge authorized by RCW 18.71.310.

(4) The applicants and licensees must pay the following nonre-fundable fees:

Title of Fee	Fee
Original application	
Application	\$425.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	16.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Active license renewal	
Two-year renewal	824.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	32.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((100.00)) <u>140.00</u>
Late renewal penalty	300.00
Expired license reissuance	262.50
Retired active license renewal (resides and practices in-state per RCW 18.71.080 and 18.130.250)	
Two-year renewal (only includes Washington physician health program surcharge)**	((100.00)) <u>140.00</u>
Retired active license renewal (does not meet in-state exemption)	
Two-year renewal	200.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	32.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((100.00)) <u>140.00</u>
Late renewal penalty	100.00
Verification of license	50.00
Duplicate license	15.00
Temporary permit	50.00
Transitioning from postgraduate training limited license	
Application fee	100.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	16.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Postgraduate limited license: RCW 18.71.095 (One-year cycle)	
Original application	
Application	325.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	16.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Limited license renewal (One-year cycle)	
Renewal	325.00
UW HEAL-WA surcharge*	16.00
Washington physician health program surcharge*	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>

Title of Fee	Fee
Limited duplicate license	15.00

* The Washington physician health program surcharge (RCW 18.71.310(2)) is assessed at \$~~(50.00)~~ 70.00 per year, and the University of Washington (UW) HEAL-WA web portal access fee (RCW 43.70.110) is assessed at \$16.00 per year.

OTS-5788.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-22-051, filed 10/25/17, effective 2/1/18)

WAC 246-922-990 Podiatry fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2, except for postgraduate training limited licenses.

(2) Postgraduate training limited licenses must be renewed every year to correspond to program dates.

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee
Original application	
Application	\$650.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance ((abuse)) <u>use disorder</u> monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) 70.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	650.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance ((abuse)) <u>use disorder</u> monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) 70.00
Late renewal penalty	300.00
Expired license reissuance	300.00
Inactive license renewal	
Renewal	175.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance ((abuse)) <u>use disorder</u> monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) 70.00
Late renewal penalty	90.00
Expired license reissuance	70.00
Retired active license renewal	
Renewal	275.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance ((abuse)) <u>use disorder</u> monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) 70.00
Late renewal penalty	140.00
Postgraduate training license application	
Application	400.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00

Title of Fee	Fee
Postgraduate training license renewal	
Renewal	475.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Substance ((abuse)) use disorder monitoring surcharge	((50.00)) <u>70.00</u>
Temporary practice permit	50.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	25.00

OTS-5789.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-08-066, filed 3/26/20, effective 7/1/20)

WAC 246-933-990 Veterinarian fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title of Fee	Fee
Initial state license	
State jurisprudence examination (initial or retake)	\$210.00
Application	145.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Initial specialty license	
Application	140.00
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Temporary permit	
	215.00
State or specialty license renewal	
Renewal	160.00
Impaired veterinarian assessment	((25.00)) <u>35.00</u>
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	80.00
Expired license reissuance	90.00
Retired active license and renewal	
Renewal	70.00
Impaired veterinarian assessment	((25.00)) <u>35.00</u>
UW online access surcharge (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	50.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	25.00