WSR 26-09-071
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed April 14, 2026, 10:49 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: WAC 182-501-0160 Exception to the rule—Request for noncovered health care service, and 182-501-0165 Medical and dental coverage—Fee-for-services (FFS) prior authorization—Determination process for payment; other related rules as appropriate.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: 42 C.F.R. §§ 440.230 (e)(1) and 457.459 (d)(2); RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The health care authority (agency) is amending these rules to comply with CMS-0057-F: Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization. CMS-0057-F updates the turnaround times for standard requests from no later than 15 days to no later than seven days, and no later than 72 hours for expedited/urgent requests. During this review, the agency may identify additional related changes that improve clarity or update policy.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Process for Developing New Rule: The agency welcomes the public to take part in developing this rule. If interested, contact the person identified below to receive an early rule draft to review. After the early review, the agency will send a notice of proposed rule making (CR-102) to everyone receiving this notice and anyone who requests a copy.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Blake O'Connor, Rule-making Questions, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, phone 360-725-1344, fax 360-586-9727, telecommunication relay services (TRS) 711, email blake.oconnor@hca.wa.gov, website www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/rulemaking; or Kerry Davis, Program Questions, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, phone 360-725-1584, fax 360-586-9727, TRS 711, email kerry.davis@hca.wa.gov, website www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/rulemaking.

April 14, 2026
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