WSR 26-10-052
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed May 4, 2026, 2:03 p.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: WAC 182-550-1050 Hospital services definitions, 182-550-2598 Critical access hospitals (CAHs), 182-550-3800 Rebasing, 182-550-3850 Budget neutrality adjustments and measurement, 182-550-4500 Payment method—Ratio of costs-to-charges (RCC), 182-550-4800 Hospital payment methods—State-administered programs, 182-550-6000 Outpatient hospital services—Conditions of payment and payment methods, and 182-550-7000 Outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS)—General; other related rules as appropriate.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: 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 align with SB 6103, chapter 112, Laws of 2026. Payments for clients eligible for medicaid services provided by a rural hospital designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a rural emergency hospital, regardless of the client's managed care enrollment status, are subject to appropriation. 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: CMS.

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 Valerie Freudenstein, Rule-making Questions, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, phone 360-725-5128, fax 360-586-9727, telecommunication relay services (TRS) 711, email valerie.freudenstein@hca.wa.gov, website www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/rulemaking; or Abby Cole, Program Questions, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, phone 360-725-1835, fax 360-586-9727, TRS 711, email abby.cole@hca.wa.gov, website www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/rulemaking.

May 4, 2026
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