WSR 26-10-089
PROPOSED RULES
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
[Filed May 6, 2026, 8:57 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 26-07-062.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 182-531-0100 Scope of coverage for physician-related and health care professional services—General and administrative.

Hearing Location(s): On June 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The health care authority (HCA) holds public hearings virtually without a physical meeting place. Virtual public hearings are held via Microsoft Teams webinar. To attend, you must register in advance at https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7c5d270b-ec0c-4828-89b8-76f6e336217c@11d0e217-264e-400a-8ba0-57dcc127d72d. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the public hearing. You will be able to join the public hearing through most standard internet browsers; you do not need to install Microsoft Teams.

Date of Intended Adoption: Not sooner than June 10, 2026.

Submit Written Comments to: HCA Rules Coordinator, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, email arc@hca.wa.gov, fax 360-586-9727, beginning May 6, 2026, 8:00 a.m., by June 9, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact Jessica Nguyen, phone 360-725-1174, fax 360-586-9727, telecommunication relay service 711, email arc@hca.wa.gov, by May 22, 2026.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: HCA is revising its vaccine policy for apple health (medicaid) clients to also include the Washington state department of health's recommendations. This change aligns with ESHB 2242, 2026 regular session.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: See purpose.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160.

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

Name of Proponent: HCA, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Blake O'Connor, Olympia, Washington, 360-725-1344; Implementation and Enforcement: Korrina Dalke, RN, BSN, Olympia, Washington, 360-725-2005.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328.

RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to HCA rules unless requested by the joint administrative rules review committee or applied voluntarily.

Scope of exemption for rule proposal from Regulatory Fairness Act requirements:

Is not exempt.

The proposed rule does not impose more-than-minor costs on businesses. Following is a summary of the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. The proposed rule clarifies immunization coverage and confirms existing program coverage. It does not change program requirements or impose new compliance obligations. The rule does not impose more-than-minor costs on small businesses.

May 6, 2026
Wendy Barcus

RDS-7123.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 25-21-142, filed 10/21/25, effective 11/21/25)

WAC 182-531-0100 Scope of coverage for physician-related and health care professional services—General and administrative. (1) The medicaid agency covers health care services, equipment, and supplies listed in this chapter, according to agency rules and subject to the limitations and requirements in this chapter, when they are:

(a) Within the scope of an eligible client's Washington apple health program. Refer to WAC 182-501-0060 and 182-501-0065; and

(b) Medically necessary as defined in WAC 182-500-0070.

(2) The agency evaluates a request for a service that is in a covered category under the provisions of WAC 182-501-0165.

(3) The agency evaluates requests for covered services that are subject to limitations or other restrictions and approves such services beyond those limitations or restrictions as described in WAC 182-501-0169.

(4) For children age 20 and younger, providers must follow the rules for the early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) program, see chapter 182-534 WAC.

(5) The agency covers the following physician-related services and health care professional services, subject to the conditions in subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section:

(a) Alcohol and substance misuse counseling (refer to WAC 182-531-1710);

(b) Allergen immunotherapy services;

(c) Anesthesia services;

(d) Dialysis and end stage renal disease services (refer to chapter 182-540 WAC);

(e) Emergency physician services;

(f) ENT (ear, nose, and throat) related services;

(g) Habilitative services (refer to WAC 182-545-400);

(h) Reproductive health services (refer to chapter 182-532 WAC);

(i) Hospital inpatient services (refer to chapter 182-550 WAC);

(j) Maternity care, delivery, and newborn care services (refer to chapter 182-533 WAC);

(k) Office visits;

(l) Vision-related services (refer to chapter 182-544 WAC for vision hardware for clients 20 years of age and younger);

(m) Osteopathic treatment services;

(n) Pathology and laboratory services;

(o) Physiatry and other rehabilitation services (refer to chapter 182-550 WAC);

(p) Foot care and podiatry services (refer to WAC 182-531-1300);

(q) Primary care services;

(r) Psychiatric services;

(s) Psychotherapy services (refer to WAC 182-531-1400);

(t) Pulmonary and respiratory services;

(u) Radiology services;

(v) Surgical services;

(w) Cosmetic, reconstructive, or plastic surgery, and related services and supplies to correct physiological defects (e.g., congenital or as a result of illness or physical trauma), or for mastectomy reconstruction for post cancer treatment;

(x) Telemedicine (refer to WAC 182-501-0300);

(y) Tobacco/nicotine cessation counseling (refer to WAC 182-531-1720);

(z) Vaccines for adults, adolescents, and children in the United States administered according to the ((~~current~~)) advisory committee on immunization practices (ACIP) recommended immunizations ((~~schedule~~)) published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or those recommended by the Washington state department of health. The agency pays for vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) outside the regular schedule ((~~may be covered if determined to be~~)) when medically necessary;

(aa) Other outpatient physician services.

(6) The agency covers physical examinations for Washington apple health clients only when the physical examination is for one or more of the following:

(a) A well-child checkup covered by the EPSDT program (see WAC 182-534-0100);

(b) An annual exam for clients of the division of developmental disabilities; or

(c) A screening pap smear, mammogram, or prostate exam.

(7) By providing covered services to a client eligible for Washington apple health, a provider who meets the requirements in WAC 182-502-0005(3) accepts the agency's rules and fees which includes federal and state law and regulations, billing instructions, and provider notices.