WSR 26-11-014
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed May 12, 2026, 12:38 p.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: WAC 182-502-0002 Eligible provider types and 182-545-200 Outpatient rehabilitation (occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy); 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 proposing to add speech language pathology assistants (SLPAs), physical therapy assistants (PTAs), occupational therapy assistants (OTAs), and rural emergency hospitals to the list of eligible providers in WAC 182-502-0002. OTAs and PTAs are already listed in WAC 182-545-200, but for consistency, the agency is also adding these providers to the general eligible provider list in WAC 182-502-0002. The agency will also be adding SLPAs to the list of providers who may enroll with the agency under WAC 182-545-200. 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: 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 Lisa Little, RN, Program Questions, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2176, phone 360-725-1344, fax 360-586-9727, TRS 711, email lisa.little@hca.wa.gov, website www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/rulemaking.

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