WSR 26-18-021
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission)
[Filed August 25, 2026, 7:52 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Updates to pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician training programs. The pharmacy quality assurance commission (commission) is considering amending WAC 246-945-203 through 246-945-220 and adopting new section(s) in chapter 246-945 WAC to potentially expand pathways to pharmacy technician certification, clarify the technician-in-training endorsement on pharmacy assistant registrations, and resolve inconsistencies in the pharmacy technician-training program requirements.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 18.64.005, 18.64A.020, and 18.64A.030.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The commission has received several inquiries regarding regulations for pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician-training programs in chapter 246-945 WAC, Part 2—General licensing, Subpart B—Pharmacy assistants and technicians. The commission is considering updating its rules relating to the requirements for pharmacy technician certification and pharmacy technician-training programs. The rule making has potential to expand licensure pathways, clarify the technician-in-training endorsement on pharmacy assistant registrations, and resolve inconsistencies in the pharmacy technician-training program requirements.

Pharmacy technician certification: The commission has received several inquiries from active or retired pharmacists interested in obtaining a pharmacy technician certification. WAC 246-945-205 does not provide a pathway for a pharmacist trained and educated in the United States to get a technician license.

Commission-approved national exams for pharmacy technician applicants are listed in policy statement P014.2 titled "Commission Approved Examinations for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians and WAC 246-945-165 and 246-945-205." The commission authorized rule making on February 5, 2026, to consider adopting content of P014.2, including pharmacy technician exams, in rules. The commission has subsequently authorized combining the content of P014.2 regarding pharmacy technician exams into this proposed rule making.

Pharmacy technician-in-training endorsement: The commission has also received inquiries regarding the commission's technician-in-training endorsement per WAC 246-945-203. Commission staff have observed errors and confusion about the time to apply and the endorsement's duration, resulting in credentialing deficiencies, delays, and nonroutine applications.

Pharmacy technician-training programs: To be recognized by the commission, pharmacy technician-training programs must either meet minimum requirements and be approved by the commission, per WAC 246-945-215, or be accredited by one of four national entities. The commission has been made aware that not all four national entities require on-the-job training as part of their curricula.

On May 28, 2026, the commission authorized rule making to consider updating requirements for pharmacy technician certification, pharmacy technician-in-training endorsements, and pharmacy technician-training programs.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: None.

Process for Developing New Rule: Collaborative rule making.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Julia Katz-Ukropina, P.O. Box 47850, Olympia, WA 98504-7850, phone 360-236-4946, fax 360-236-2260, TTY 711, email PharmacyRules@wa.doh.gov, website www.wa.doh.gov.

Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in the drafting of the proposed rules. The commission will conduct at least one rules workshop. Rule-making notices will be delivered via the email communication list. To receive notices, go to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new. After signing in, click open the box labeled "Health Systems Quality Assurance." Next, click open the box labeled "Health Professions" and then click again on "Pharmacy Commission Newsletter." You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions or facilities listed to receive information related to that specific topic.

August 20, 2026
Ann Wolken, PharmD, RPh, Chair
Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission