WSR 26-19-079
PERMANENT RULES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission)
[Filed September 17, 2026, 8:13 a.m., effective October 18, 2026]

Effective Date of Rule: Thirty-one days after filing.

Purpose: Classification of chiropractic procedures and instrumentation. The chiropractic quality assurance commission (commission) is adopting amendments to WAC 246-808-505 Classification of chiropractic procedures and instrumentation.

The commission is adopting amendments to:

- Clarify language as to which procedures and instruments are permitted for use by a chiropractor;
- Eliminate ambiguous categories by providing two categories of procedures and instrumentation: (1) "Approved" and (2) "nonapproved"; and
- Permit only procedures and instruments approved by the commission that meet patient safety and evidence-based standards to be used.

The adopted amendments are necessary to eliminate ambiguous rule language and clarify which procedures and instruments are permitted for use by chiropractors. The adopted rules categorize procedures and instruments as either "approved" or "nonapproved" by the commission and clarify that procedures or instruments categorized as "nonapproved" cannot be used by chiropractors. The commission will update both lists and make them available as interpretive statements on the agency website.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 246-808-505.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 18.25.005 and 18.25.0171.

Other Authority: RCW 18.25.005.

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 26-12-057 on June 1, 2026.

A final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting Betty Moe, P.O. Box 47858, Olympia, WA 98504-7858, phone 360-764-6251, TTY 711, email Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: September 17, 2026.

Jas Walia, DC, Chair
Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission

RDS-6962.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 96-16-074, filed 8/6/96, effective 9/6/96)

WAC 246-808-505 ((~~Classification~~)) Categorization of chiropractic procedures and ((~~instrumentation~~)) instruments. (1) ((~~Procedures, instruments for treatment and/or diagnostic evaluation used by a doctor of chiropractic shall be classified by the commission as follows~~)) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Approved"((~~:~~)) means a procedure or instrument ((~~which~~)) that is ((~~taught by a~~)) authorized by the commission ((~~approved chiropractic college for patient~~)) for clinical application ((~~and not for research or experimental purposes and is allowable by statute. All factors listed under subsection (4) of this section shall be considered before a procedure or instrument is placed in the approved classification~~)) by chiropractors, consistent with the chiropractic scope of practice as defined by RCW 18.25.005.

(b) "Nonapproved ((~~**or experimental": Any**~~))" means a procedure or instrument that does not meet with commission approval and shall not be used by chiropractors. ((~~A procedure or instrument in this classification shall pass further testing in the laboratory before it can be used on the public. These may be defined by previous declaratory rules or rules and regulations.~~

~~(c) **"Research or investigational":** A procedure or instrumentation that is not approved, but may have a positive benefit in the diagnosis or care of a patient's condition. No billing is allowed for procedures or instruments used under this classification.~~))

(2) The commission shall categorize chiropractic procedures and instruments as either "approved" or "nonapproved."

(3) The commission shall maintain a ((~~classified~~)) list of chiropractic procedures and ((~~instrumentation. The list shall be made available upon request.~~

~~(3) A doctor who intends to use a new procedure or instrument in practice shall notify the commission to determine the classification of the procedure or instrument. If the procedure or instrument is not classified or if new information on a previously classified procedure or instrument is available the doctor shall:~~

~~(a) Provide the commission with supporting documentation concerning the use of such a procedure or instrumentation;~~

~~(b) Demonstrate sufficient additional training or study for the doctor and utilizing staff to properly use the procedure or instrumentation.~~

~~(4) The commission may use the following factors to determine the classification of the procedure or instrumentation, and shall notify the doctor of such classification:~~)) instruments that are "approved" or "nonapproved."

(4) A chiropractor shall not use chiropractic procedures or instruments that are categorized by the commission as "nonapproved."

(5) Any person may submit a request to the commission that a chiropractic procedure or instrument be categorized as "approved" or "nonapproved" by completing and submitting forms supplied by the commission, with any necessary supporting documentation.

(6) When determining whether a chiropractic procedure or instrument be categorized as "approved" or "nonapproved," the commission will review the submitted forms and supporting documentation, and consider, at a minimum, the following factors:

(a) Whether the new procedure or instrument is taught at an approved chiropractic college((~~.~~));

(b) Whether there is a scientific basis for the new procedure or instrument((~~.~~));

(c) Whether the procedure or instrument has a direct and positive relationship to chiropractic care((~~.~~));

(d) ((~~Comparison of~~)) The potential ((~~risk to benefit to the patient.~~)) risks of harm to patients compared to the benefits; and

(e) Any other factors identified by the commission ((~~may wish to consider~~)).