



RULE-MAKING ORDER

PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 13, 2023

TIME: 4:27 PM

WSR 23-21-075

Agency: Department of Health – Board of Physical Therapy

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Health equity continuing education rules for the physical therapy and physical therapy assistant professions, WAC 246-915-085. The Board of Physical Therapy (board) is adopting an amendment to WAC 246-915-085 to implement Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5229 (chapter 276, Laws of 2021). The board is adopting and exceeding the health equity model rule minimum standards, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830, for the physical therapy and physical therapy assistant profession to comply with RCW 43.70.613.

RCW 43.70.613(3)(b) directs the rule-making authority for each health profession licensed under Title 18 RCW that is subject to continuing education (CE) to adopt rules requiring a licensee to complete health equity continuing education training at least once every four years. The statute also directs the Department of Health (department) to create model rules establishing the minimum standards for health equity CE programs. The department filed model rules for health equity CE minimum standards on November 23, 2022, under WSR 22-23-167. Any rules developed for the Board of Physical Therapy must meet or exceed the minimum standards in the model rules in WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830.

The board’s adopted rule adds two hours of health equity education to be completed as part of the current continuing education requirements every two years. This exceeds the two hours of health equity education to be completed every four years required in the model rules. The proposed rule requires two hours in health equity CE every two years which can be counted under existing CE requirements for the profession. No additional topics are being added to the model rules requirements.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None

Repealed: None

Amended: WAC 246-915-085

Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.74.023 and 43.70.613

Other authority: None

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 23-13-113 on June 21, 2023 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: Allyson McIver

Address: PO Box 47877 Olympia WA 98504-7877

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Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

Date Adopted: October 12, 2023

Name: Kathryn Dale, PT, DSc

Title: Chairperson, Board of Physical Therapy

Signature:



WAC 246-915-085 Continuing competency. (1) Every two years, a physical therapist shall complete (~~(thirty-two)~~) 32 hours of continuing education (CE) through any of the following means:

	CE Type	Maximum Hours Allowed	Documentation Requirements
a.	Participation in a course, live or online, including recorded.	No limit	Keep certificates of completion for each course, and, if not contained in the certificate of completion, information describing the course sponsors, the goals and objectives of the course, the credentials of the presenter as a recognized authority on the subject presented, dates of attendance, and total hours for all continuing education courses being reported.
b.	Live or recorded instructional electronic media relating to the practice of physical therapy that does not include specific goals and objectives.	Four hours	Instead of course goals, objectives and certificate of completion, the PT shall write and submit to the department a minimum of two takeaways for each hour of running time.
c.	Books or articles reviewed.	Eight hours (reading time only)	The PT shall write and submit to the department a one-page synopsis in twelve-point font for each hour of reading time. The time spent writing a synopsis is not reportable.
d.	Preparation and presentation of professional physical therapy courses or lectures.	Sixteen hours	The PT shall submit to the department a description and objectives of the presentation, date, and location of presentation.
e.	Written preparation and publication of original scholarly research or work published in a peer-review journal.	Ten hours	The PT shall submit to the department proof of publication which may include poster presentations.
f.	Clinical instruction of physical therapy students enrolled in a physical therapy educational program accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or clinical instruction in a postgraduate residency or fellowship through the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE).	Ten hours	The PT shall obtain and submit to the department a letter or certificate from the student's academic institution verifying that the student has completed the course of clinical instruction. Each thirty-two hours of student mentorship equals one hour for purposes of CE credit.
g.	Courses required for professional certification such as to work in public schools.	Fifteen hours	The PT shall submit a copy of the completion certificate to the department.
h.	Courses provided by an accredited institution of higher education which may include, but are not limited to, courses leading to an advanced degree in physical therapy or other courses that advance the PT's competence.	No limit	The PT shall submit a transcript to the department verifying courses taken. One quarter credit is equal to ten hours; one trimester is equal to twelve hours; and one semester credit is equal to fifteen hours.
i.	Attendance at science-based conferences.	No limit	Certificate of attendance.
j.	Preparing for and successfully taking and passing board certification exams through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.	No limit	Certificate of certification.

(2) Every two years a physical therapist who holds a spinal manipulation endorsement shall complete at least (~~(ten)~~) 10 hours of continuing education directly related to spinal manipulation with at least five hours related to procedural techniques and application of spinal manipulation. For documentation, refer to the documentation required for the particular type of continuing education chosen. The

hours spent completing spinal manipulation continuing education count toward meeting any applicable continuing competency requirements.

(3) Every two years, a physical therapist assistant shall complete (~~twenty-four~~) 24 hours of continuing education through any of the following means:

	CE Type	Hours Allowed	Documentation Requirements
a.	Participation in a course, live or online, including recorded.	No limit	Keep certificates of completion for each course, and, if not contained in the certificate of completion, information describing the course sponsors, the goals and objectives of the course, the credentials of the presenter as a recognized authority on the subject presented, dates of attendance, and total hours for all continuing education courses being reported.
b.	Live or recorded instructional electronic media relating to the practice of physical therapy that does not include specific goals and objectives.	Four hours	Instead of course goals, objectives and certificate of completion, the PTA shall submit to the department a minimum of two takeaways for each hour of running time.
c.	Books or articles reviewed.	Eight hours (reading time only)	The PTA shall write and submit a one-page synopsis in twelve-point font for each hour of reading time. The time spent writing a synopsis is not reportable.
d.	Preparation and presentation of professional physical therapy courses or lectures.	Sixteen hours	The PTA shall submit to the department a description and objectives of the presentation, date, and location of presentation.
e.	Written preparation and publication of original scholarly research or work published in a peer-review journal.	Ten hours	The PTA shall submit proof of publication which may include poster presentations.
f.	Clinical instruction of physical therapist assistant students enrolled in a physical therapy assistant program accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or clinical instruction in a postgraduate residency or fellowship through the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE).	Ten hours	The PTA shall obtain and submit to the department a letter or certificate from the student's academic institution verifying that the student has completed the course of clinical instruction. Each thirty-two hours of student mentorship equals one hour for purposes of CE credit.
g.	Courses required for professional certification such as to work in public schools.	Fifteen hours	The PTA shall submit a copy of the completion certificate.
h.	Courses provided by an accredited institution of higher education which may include, but are not limited to, courses leading to an advanced degree in physical therapy or other courses that advance the PTA's competence.	No limit	The PTA shall submit a transcript verifying courses taken. One quarter credit is equal to ten hours; one trimester credit is equal to twelve hours; and one semester credit is equal to fifteen hours.
i.	Attendance at science-based conferences.	No limit	Certificate of attendance.
j.	Preparing for and successfully taking and passing board certification exams through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.	No limit	Certificate of certification.

(4) Every two years, each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall complete two hours of health equity continuing competency training as described in WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830. For documentation, refer to the documentation required for the particular type of continuing education chosen. The hours spent completing health equity training continuing education count toward meeting any applicable continuing competency requirements.

(5) Each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall complete a one-time, three hour suicide assessment training described in WAC 246-915-086.

((+5)) (6) Every two years, each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall complete ((two hundred)) 200 hours involving the application of physical therapy knowledge and skills which may be obtained in the clinical practice of physical therapy or in the non-clinical activities which include, but are not limited to, the following:

	Clinical Activities	Hours Allowed	Documentation
a.	Physical therapy clinical practice.	No limit	Documentation of physical therapy employment, the PT or PTA shall provide copies of employment records or other proof acceptable to the board of employment for the hours being reported.
	Nonclinical Activities	Hours Allowed (within the two hundred hours required)	Documentation
b.	Physical therapy teaching of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient/client management, prevention and wellness. • Physical therapy ethics and standards of practice. • Professional advocacy/involvement. 	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation of such activities as acceptable to the board.
c.	Active service on boards or participation in professional or government organizations, or attendance at professional or government organizations meetings specifically related to the practice of physical therapy.	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation of such activities as acceptable to the board.
d.	Developing course work in physical therapy schools or education programs or physical therapy continuing education courses.	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation of such activities as acceptable to the board.
e.	Physical therapy research as a principal or associate researcher.	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation of such activities as acceptable to the board.
f.	Physical therapy consulting.	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation of such activities as acceptable to the board.
g.	Management of physical therapy services.	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation of such activities as acceptable to the board.
h.	Physical therapy volunteer hours or observation in physical therapy practice.	No limit	The PT or PTA shall provide documentation verifying volunteer or observation hours.