

**RCW 18.79.400 Pain management rules—Criteria for new rules.**  
**(Effective until June 30, 2027.)** (1) By June 30, 2011, the  
\*commission shall adopt new rules on chronic, noncancer pain  
management that contain the following elements:

(a)(i) Dosing criteria, including:

(A) A dosage amount that must not be exceeded unless an advanced  
registered nurse practitioner or certified registered nurse  
anesthetist first consults with a practitioner specializing in pain  
management; and

(B) Exigent or special circumstances under which the dosage  
amount may be exceeded without consultation with a practitioner  
specializing in pain management.

(ii) The rules regarding consultation with a practitioner  
specializing in pain management must, to the extent practicable, take  
into account:

(A) Circumstances under which repeated consultations would not be  
necessary or appropriate for a patient undergoing a stable, ongoing  
course of treatment for pain management;

(B) Minimum training and experience that is sufficient to exempt  
an advanced registered nurse practitioner or certified registered  
nurse anesthetist from the specialty consultation requirement;

(C) Methods for enhancing the availability of consultations;

(D) Allowing the efficient use of resources; and

(E) Minimizing the burden on practitioners and patients;

(b) Guidance on when to seek specialty consultation and ways in  
which electronic specialty consultations may be sought;

(c) Guidance on tracking clinical progress by using assessment  
tools focusing on pain interference, physical function, and overall  
risk for poor outcome; and

(d) Guidance on tracking the use of opioids, particularly in the  
emergency department.

(2) The \*commission shall consult with the agency medical  
directors' group, the department of health, the University of  
Washington, and the largest professional associations for advanced  
registered nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse  
anesthetists in the state.

(3) The rules adopted under this section do not apply:

(a) To the provision of palliative, hospice, or other end-of-life  
care; or

(b) To the management of acute pain caused by an injury or a  
surgical procedure. [2010 c 209 s 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to "nursing care quality assurance  
commission" was changed to "board of nursing" by 2023 c 123.

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adopt new rules on chronic, noncancer pain management that contain the  
following elements:

(a)(i) Dosing criteria, including:

(A) A dosage amount that must not be exceeded unless an advanced  
practice registered nurse or certified registered nurse anesthetist  
first consults with a practitioner specializing in pain management;  
and

(B) Exigent or special circumstances under which the dosage amount may be exceeded without consultation with a practitioner specializing in pain management.

(ii) The rules regarding consultation with a practitioner specializing in pain management must, to the extent practicable, take into account:

(A) Circumstances under which repeated consultations would not be necessary or appropriate for a patient undergoing a stable, ongoing course of treatment for pain management;

(B) Minimum training and experience that is sufficient to exempt an advanced practice registered nurse or certified registered nurse anesthetist from the specialty consultation requirement;

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(2) The board shall consult with the agency medical directors' group, the department of health, the University of Washington, and the largest professional associations for advanced practice registered nurses and certified registered nurse anesthetists in the state.

(3) The rules adopted under this section do not apply:

(a) To the provision of palliative, hospice, or other end-of-life care; or

(b) To the management of acute pain caused by an injury or a surgical procedure. [2024 c 239 s 18; 2010 c 209 s 7.]

**Effective date—2024 c 239:** See note following RCW 18.79.030.