

WAC 246-808-830 Participation in approved substance abuse monitoring program. (1) In lieu of disciplinary action, the chiropractor may accept commission referral into the approved substance abuse monitoring program.

(a) The chiropractor shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation shall be performed by health care professional(s) with expertise in chemical dependency. The person(s) performing the evaluation shall not also be the provider of the recommended treatment.

(b) The chiropractor shall enter into a contract with the commission and the approved substance abuse monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) The chiropractor shall undergo intensive substance abuse treatment in an approved treatment facility.

(ii) The chiropractor shall agree to remain free of all mind-altering substances including alcohol, except for medications prescribed by an authorized prescriber, as defined in RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.101.

(iii) The chiropractor must complete the prescribed aftercare program of the intensive treatment facility, which may include individual and/or group psychotherapy.

(iv) The treatment counselor(s) shall provide reports to the approved monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment, prognosis, and goals.

(v) The chiropractor shall submit to random drug screening as specified by the approved monitoring program.

(vi) The chiropractor shall attend support groups facilitated by a health care professional and/or twelve-step group meetings as specified by the contract.

(vii) The chiropractor shall comply with specified employment conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract.

(viii) The chiropractor shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the commission if the chiropractor does not comply with the requirements of this contract.

(c) The chiropractor is responsible for paying the costs of the physical and psychosocial evaluation, substance abuse treatment, and random drug screens.

(d) The chiropractor may be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 if the chiropractor does not consent to be referred to the approved monitoring program, does not comply with specified employment restrictions, or does not successfully complete the program.

(2) A chiropractor who is not being investigated by the commission or subject to current disciplinary action or currently being monitored by the commission for substance abuse may voluntarily participate in the approved substance abuse monitoring program without being referred by the commission. Such voluntary participants shall not be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 for their substance abuse, and shall not have their participation made known to the commission if they meet the requirements of the approved monitoring program as defined in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The treatment and pretreatment records of license holders referred to or voluntarily participating in approved monitoring programs shall be confidential, shall be exempt from RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.450 and shall not be subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence except for monitoring records reported to the disciplinary authority for cause as defined in subsection (1) of this sec-

tion. Records held by the commission under this section shall be exempt from RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.450 and shall not be subject to discovery by subpoena except by the license holder.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.25 RCW. WSR 96-16-074, § 246-808-830, filed 8/6/96, effective 9/6/96.]