

**WAC 246-853-290 Intent of substance use disorder monitoring.** It is the intent of the legislature that the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery seek ways to identify and support the rehabilitation of osteopathic physicians and surgeons where practice or competency may be impaired due to an applicable impairing health condition. The legislature intends that osteopathic physicians be treated so that they can return to or continue to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in a way which safeguards the public. The legislature specifically intends that the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery establish an alternate program to the traditional administrative proceedings against osteopathic physicians and surgeons.

In lieu of disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 and if the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery determines that the unprofessional conduct may be the result of an applicable impairing health condition, the board may refer the registrant/licensee to a voluntary substance use disorder monitoring program approved by the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 2022 c 43. WSR 24-14-032, § 246-853-290, filed 6/25/24, effective 7/26/24. Statutory Authority: 2020 c 80. WSR 23-19-059, § 246-853-290, filed 9/15/23, effective 10/16/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.130.175. WSR 91-10-043 (Order 159B), § 246-853-290, filed 4/25/91, effective 5/26/91.]