



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Olympia, Washington 98504

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AN INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

**Title of Interpretive Statement:** Telemedicine Training Requirement.  
Interpretive Statement Number: OAS 02-2020

**Issuing Entity:** Washington State Department of Health

**Subject Matter:** Clarifies that health care providers must take telehealth trainings on or after January 1, 2021 as required by RCW 43.70.495.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

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*Department of Health  
Health Systems Quality Assurance  
Office of the Assistant Secretary*

# Interpretive Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

<i>Title:</i>	Telemedicine Training Requirement	<i>Number:</i> OAS 02-2020
<i>References:</i>	<a href="#">RCW 43.70.495</a> , <a href="#">RCW 18.130.040</a> and <a href="#">SSB 6061 (chapter 147, Laws of 2020)</a>	
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<i>Effective Date:</i>	January 1, 2021	
<i>Supersedes:</i>	N/A	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Kristin Peterson, Assistant Secretary	

The purpose of this Interpretive Statement is to clarify that health care providers licensed under RCW 18.130.040 must take telehealth training on or after January 1, 2021 as required by RCW 43.70.495.

RCW 43.70.495 tasked the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine (collaborative) with designing a training program to teach health care professionals about telemedicine and proper billing. Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6061 amended the law to require health care professionals who provide clinical services through telemedicine to complete the telemedicine training designed by the collaborative or an alternative telemedicine training, as defined by RCW 43.70.495 (4)(a), beginning January 1, 2021. If a health care professional completes training they must sign and retain an attestation. The law does not apply to allopathic or osteopathic physicians.

The Department of Health (department) has received several questions asking if providers must have completed telehealth health training by January 1, 2021.

RCW 43.70.495 (2) states “..beginning January 1, 2021, a health care professional who provides clinical services through telemedicine, other than a physician licensed under chapter [18.71](#) RCW or an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter [18.57](#) RCW, shall complete a telemedicine training.”

The department interprets the language to mean that providers must take the training on or after January 1, 2021.

The collaborative intends to have training available before the end of December 2020. The department, in conjunction with the health profession boards and commissions, encourages health care providers to take a required training as soon as possible, and no later than June 30, 2021, in order to be informed and current on state and federal laws, liability, informed consent and other information made available through these trainings.

This Interpretive Statement applies to all professions licensed under RCW 18.130.040 except a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW or an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW which are exempt under RCW 43.70.495, and those professions under the authority of the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC). NCQAC will be providing guidance to their credential holders.