



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

**Title of Interpretive Statement:** Health Equity Continuing Education for Dental Hygienists.  
Interpretive Statement: HSQA OHP DH2301

**Issuing Entity:** Department of Health, Dental Hygiene Program

**Subject Matter:** Health equity continuing education (CE) requirements for Dental Hygienists under chapter 246-815 WAC. Training requirements in WAC 246-12-800 through WAC 246-12-830 will apply to a Dental Hygiene licensee starting January 1, 2024.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2024

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

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**WSR 24-02-026**

**Department of Health**  
**Office of Community Health Systems**

# Interpretive Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Health Equity Continuing Education for Dental Hygienists	<i>Number:</i> HSQA OHP DH2301
<i>References:</i>	RCW 43.70.613, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830, Chapter 246-815 WAC	
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<i>Effective Date:</i>	January 1, 2024	
<i>Supercedes:</i>	N/A	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Christie Spice, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy	

It is the Department of Health's (department) position that health equity continuing education (CE) requirements for Dental Hygienists licensed under chapter [246-815 WAC](#), include training requirements in WAC 246-12-800 through WAC 246-12-830 and apply to a Dental Hygienist licensee starting January 1, 2024.

[RCW 43.70.613](#) directs the rule-making authority for each health profession licensed under [Title 18 RCW](#) subject to CE, to adopt rules requiring health equity CE training at least once every four years. The statute also directed the department to establish model rules that create minimum standards for health equity CE training programs. The department adopted model rules on November 23, 2022 under [WSR 22-23-167](#), creating four new sections in chapter [246-12 WAC](#):

- [WAC 246-12-800](#) Purpose
- [WAC 246-12-810](#) Definitions
- [WAC 246-12-820](#) Health equity CE training minimum hours. This section requires health care professionals, defined under [WAC 246-12-810](#), complete a minimum of two hours of health equity CE training every four years.
- [WAC 246-12-830](#) Health equity CE training content. This section describes the content that must be included in a health equity education program.

The Secretary of Health is in the process of revising the dental hygiene rules, chapter 246-815 WAC, including [WAC 246-815-145](#), continuing education, which includes implementing RCW 43.70.613 to establish specific health equity CE requirements for dental hygienists. Pending the adoption of permanent rules, the department will implement the statute by requiring Dental Hygienist licensees to meet the minimum health equity CE requirements of two hours every four years, beginning January 1, 2024.

In conclusion, it is the department's position that beginning January 1, 2024, a licensed Dental Hygienist must complete two hours of health equity CE every four years, consistent with the requirements of RCW 43.70.613 and WAC 246-12-800 through WAC 246-12-830.