

WAC 246-933-200 Veterinariany-client-patient relationship.

A veterinariany-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis for interaction between veterinarians and their clients and patients.

(1) A veterinariany-client-patient relationship exists when all of the following conditions have been met:

(a) The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and need for medical treatment, and the client or key party as defined in WAC 246-934-020 has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian.

(b) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate, at a minimum, a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical conditions of the animal(s). This means the veterinarian:

(i) Has physically examined the animal(s) within the last year, or sooner if medically appropriate; or

(ii) In cases involving operations with several animals, such as encountered at farms, laboratories, or in shelters, is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s)

by virtue of an examination of the animal(s) or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.

(c) The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for emergency coverage and continuing care and treatment.

(2) The veterinarian shall not establish a ~~VCPR~~~~veterinary-client-patient relationship~~ solely by telephonic or other electronic means. Once a VCPR has been established, ongoing care can be provided via telemedicine, however, it is the responsibility of the examining veterinarian to determine if a physical exam is medically appropriate based on available information regardless of when the last physical exam was performed.~~However, once established, a veterinary-client-patient relationship may be maintained between medically necessary examinations via telephone or other types of consultations.~~

NEW SECTION (3) Once a VCPR has been established, it extends to all licensees while employed/practicing at the same premises or same mobile practice entity as the veterinarian who established the most current VCPR.

(a) The VCPR cannot be extended to other licensees based solely on the accessibility of the medical records.

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NEW SECTION (4) In the absence of an established VCPR, allowable telehealth services are limited to:

(a) Teleadvice

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(b) Telerriage

(c) Telemedicine for the purpose of prescribing sedation, other than a controlled substance, prior to an in-person visit, and only to facilitate transportation to, examination by, or treatment by a veterinarian.

(d) Dispensing drugs, other than controlled substance, prescribed by another veterinarian, including a veterinarian licensed in another state, if:

(i) failure to dispense the drug could interrupt a therapeutic regimen or cause a patient to suffer;

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- (ii) the prescribing veterinarian has
ascertained information necessary to fill
the requested prescription;
- (iii) the quantity of the dispensed drug does
not exceed a ten-day supply for each
animal annually;
- (iv) the annual total of dosage units of drugs
dispensed under this subsection is not
more than five percent of the total dosage
units of drugs the veterinarian dispenses
in a year;
- (v) the veterinarian maintains records of
dispensing activities under this section
consistent with board rules; and;
- (vi) consistent with RCW 18.92.012, controlled
substances can be dispensed only if
prescribed by a veterinarian license in
the State of Washington under RCW 18.

NEW SECTION (5): Once VCPR has been established, all forms of telehealth, as defined in WAC 246-933-010, may be utilized at the discretion of the veterinarian.

~~(63)~~ The ~~VCPR~~~~veterinary client patient relationship~~ may be terminated under these conditions:

(a) ~~Veterinarians may terminate a veterinary client patient relationship as long as t~~The termination does not constitute patient abandonment as described in WAC 246-933-060.

(b) If there is an ongoing medical or surgical condition, the patient should be referred to another veterinarian for diagnosis, care, and treatment.

(c) Clients may terminate the ~~VCPR~~~~veterinary client patient relationship~~ at any time.

~~(74)~~ For animals or animal products for food consumption:

(a) There must be a written agreement with the client that identifies the farm veterinarian of record (VOR) who is accountable for drug use and treatments administered to the animals on the farm operation;

(b) The VOR is the responsible party for providing appropriate oversight of drug use on the farm operation. Oversight includes establishment of diagnostic and treatment protocols, training of personnel, review of treatment records, monitoring drug inventories, assuring appropriate labeling of drugs, and monitoring compliance and outcomes. Veterinary oversight of drug use must include all drugs used on the farm regardless of the distribution of the drugs to the farm;

(c) Provision of drugs or drug prescriptions must be for specific time frames appropriate to the scope and type of operation involved and only for the management groups within the operation that the VOR has direct involvement and oversight;

(d) A veterinarian issuing a veterinary feed directive (VFD) must comply with applicable federal law, including 21 C.F.R. 558.6.

~~(85)~~ Medical records must be maintained pursuant to WAC 246-933-320(7).

~~(96)~~ (a) A veterinarian shall use or prescribe drugs only within the context of a veterinarian~~ian~~-client-patient relationship except as outlined in section (4). Veterinary

prescription drugs are restricted by federal law, under 21 U.S.C. Sec. 353(f), to be used by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

(b) Extra label use is legal only when ordered by a veterinarian and within the context of a veterinarian~~ian~~-client-patient relationship.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030. WSR 16-11-004, § 246-933-200, filed 5/4/16, effective 6/4/16.]