



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890  
Tel: 360-236-4030 • TDD Relay Service: 800-833-6388*

To Whom It May Concern,

The Department of Health (department) has adopted new sections of rule to chapter 246-827 WAC to establish the new MA-EMT credential to implement Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5940 (chapter 217, Laws of 2024) codified under 18.360 RCW.

In 2024, the legislature passed SSB 5940 that created a new medical assistant credential type in chapter 18.360 RCW for individuals holding a current emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced EMT, or paramedic credential in good standing. The new credential is referred to as medical assistant-EMT (MA-EMT). The amendments made by SSB 5940 allows individuals who hold an MA-EMT to work under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner in a hospital environment if the duties are within the scope, training, and endorsements of their EMT, advanced EMT, or paramedic credential.

The new sections of rule outline the requirements related to the MA-EMT credential application process, outline qualifications needed for the MA-EMT credential, establish permitted activities in accordance with statutory guidelines, and specify the conditions for medication administration. The department also adopted an amendment to WAC 246-827-990, Medical assistant—Fees and renewal cycle to establish the new MA-EMT credential fees.

### Comments Received and Departments Response:

The department heard one testimony during the rules hearing that took place on April 8, 2025 in support of the proposed rules with some minor technical edits and a request for clarification. The commenter requested that the department make a clarification that free standing emergency departments and off campus emergency departments be considered as places where an MA-EMT may practice since those environments sometimes operate under a hospital licensed under 70.41 RCW. The department considered this clarification request with the EMS program and the Hospital Systems program and made an update to the final rule to address concerns raised by this comment.

The department received a request to also include that an MA-EMT may remove an intravenous line under WAC 246-827-0550 (4) as this is allowed in RCW 18.360.050. The department considered this request and made the amendment to improve clarity and align the rule language more closely with statute.

The department received a request with concerns on the proposed rule related to the medication administration requirements. The commenter requested the department outline which specific actions related to medication administration would be prohibited based on the risk of anaphylaxis or other life-threatening consequences. The department considered this comment but ultimately decided not to amend this section as it aligns with other medical assistant medication administration rules and leaves these decisions to the clinical judgment of the delegating healthcare practitioner, providing flexibility for facilities.

The department received a request to remove the reference to WAC 246-827-110 under WAC 246-827-0540(2). The department considered this request, but ultimately decided to keep this reference in the final proposed rule because it is consistent with the other delegation requirements for the other MA credential types. The department is planning to conduct a rule clean up project at a later date to ensure the rest of the MA rule sections include references to the MA-EMT credential type.

The department received a request to remove language requiring the delegating healthcare practitioner to deem the MA-EMT competent to administer medication, as this requirement exists in another subsection of the rule. The department considered this request but ultimately decided to keep the language as written in the proposed rule as it aligns with other medical assistant medication administration rule sections.

Any person may petition the adoption or amendment of these rules in accordance with RCW 34.05.330.

For more information regarding these rules, you may contact Becky McElhiney at [medical.assistants@doh.wa.gov](mailto:medical.assistants@doh.wa.gov).