



RULE-MAKING ORDER

PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: July 30, 2025

TIME: 7:51 AM

WSR 25-16-046

Agency: Department of Health

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- ☐ 31 days after filing.
- ☒ Other (specify) September 1, 2025 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Amending examination requirements for orthotists and prosthetists to reduce barriers for initial licensure. The Department of Health (department), along with the Orthotics and Prosthetics Advisory Committee, is adopting rules to comply with passage of recent legislation, affecting chapter 246-850 WAC, orthotics and prosthetics rules, to reduce barriers for licensure under Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1724 (chapter 425, Laws of 2023), codified as RCW 18.130.077.

To align with the statute, the Department of Health (department) is adopting rule amendments to WAC 246-850-060, 246-850-140, and 246-850-150, to remove the Washington State Jurisprudence (JP) examination as a requirement for initial licensure. The adopted rules make the JP exam a requirement for the continuing competency cycle, every three years.

To account for changes to the internal credentialing system (HELMS), the department is delaying the effective date to September 1, 2025.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None
Repealed: None
Amended: WAC 246-850-060, 246-850-140, and 246-850-150
Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.130.040, 18.200.050, and Second Substitute House Bill 1724 (chapter 425, Laws of 2023) codified as RCW 18.130.077

Other authority: None

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 25-09-062 on April 14, 2025 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: Rachel Phipps

Address: Office of Health Professions, PO Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852

Phone: 564-233-1277

Fax: N/A

TTY: 711

Email: orthotics-prosthetics@doh.wa.gov

Web site: doh.wa.gov

Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>3</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
-----	----------	---------	----------	----------	----------

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
-----	----------	---------	----------	----------	----------

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>3</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
-----	----------	---------	----------	----------	----------

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>3</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

Date Adopted: July 30, 2025

Name: Kristin Peterson, JD for Dennis E. Worsham

Title: Chief of Policy for Secretary of Health

Signature:



AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-17-083, filed 8/17/22, effective 9/17/22)

WAC 246-850-060 Examination requirements. (1) An applicant for initial licensure as an orthotist shall successfully complete the following examinations:

(a) ~~((The Washington state jurisprudence examination; and~~
~~(b)))~~ As prepared and administered by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics:

(i) The orthotic written multiple choice examination;

(ii) The orthotic written simulation examination; and

~~((e)))~~ (b) If the applicant completes the education requirements for licensure on or after January 1, 2020, the orthotic clinical patient management exam.

(2) An applicant for initial licensure as a prosthetist shall successfully complete the following examinations:

~~((a) The Washington state jurisprudence examination; and~~

~~(b)))~~ As prepared and administered by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics:

~~((i)))~~ (a) The prosthetic written multiple choice examination;

~~((ii)))~~ (b) The prosthetic written simulation examination; and

~~((iii)))~~ (c) If the applicant completes the education requirements for initial licensure on or after January 1, 2020, the prosthetic clinical patient management exam.

(3) An applicant who has successfully completed examinations administered by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics prior to July 1, 1991, may be considered by the secretary in order to determine if the applicant meets alternative standards that are substantially equivalent.

(4) A licensee must successfully complete the Washington state jurisprudence examination within 180 days after initial licensure.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-23-137, filed 11/17/23, effective 12/18/23)

WAC 246-850-140 Continuing competency requirements for orthotists and prosthetists. (1) The continuing competency reporting cycle begins with the first full three-year period after initial licensure. All orthotists and prosthetists shall attest to completion of continuing competency activities every year at renewal and shall comply with WAC 246-12-170 through 246-12-240.

(2) All licensed orthotists and prosthetists shall complete continuing competency hours as follows:

(a) Licensed orthotists shall complete a minimum of 45 continuing competency hours every three years in the area of orthotics.

(b) Licensed prosthetists shall complete a minimum of 45 continuing competency hours every three years in the area of prosthetics.

(c) Individuals who are licensed as both an orthotist and as a prosthetist shall complete a minimum of 60 continuing competency hours every three years.

(3) For individuals licensed in one discipline, a maximum of ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 Category 2 continuing competency hours may be earned in any three-year reporting period.

(4) For individuals licensed in both disciplines, a maximum of 24 Category 2 continuing competency hours may be earned in any three-year reporting period.

(5) Licensees may alternatively meet the continuing competency requirement if they hold a current certification from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics. The required documentation is proof of certification during the three-year cycle.

(6) Orthotists and prosthetists must complete a minimum of two hours in health equity continuing education training every four years by complying with WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830.

(a) Individuals licensed as both an orthotist and prosthetist only need to meet the requirements once every four years.

(b) This training must be completed by the end of the second full continuing education reporting period after January 1, 2024, or the second full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later.

(c) The hours spent completing health equity continuing education under this section count toward meeting applicable continuing education requirements in this section.

(7) Licensed orthotists and prosthetists must complete and pass the Washington state jurisprudence examination every three years as a continuing competency requirement.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-09-065, filed 4/16/19, effective 5/17/19)

WAC 246-850-150 Classification of categories of continuing competency. Continuing competency activities are distinguished between activities which are sponsored by those organizations listed in subsection (1) of this section and those which are generally either independent or unsupervised, or both and are listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(1) Category 1. Courses offered or approved by the following organizations qualify as Category 1 continuing competency activities. Category 1 activities receive one continuing competency credit hour for every ((fifty)) 50 minutes spent in a course or other activity. Licensees shall maintain documentation of attendance at courses. Acceptable documentation includes certificates or receipts with an authorized signature, stamp or seal.

(a) American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics.

(b) Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification.

(c) American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists.

(d) American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association.

(e) International Association of Orthotics and Prosthetics.

(f) International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics.

(g) Association of American Children's Orthotics and Prosthetics Clinics.

(h) Canadian Orthotic and Prosthetic Association.

(i) Any school or college of orthotics or prosthetics approved by the secretary under RCW 18.200.050(5).

(j) Relevant school or college courses from an institution accredited by a recognized regional accrediting body.

(k) Relevant courses or seminars offered by organizations or associations such as the American Society of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Medical Association, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Podiatric Medical Association.

(l) Manufacturer courses approved/sponsored by organizations listed in subsection (1)(a) through (k) of this section.

(2) Category 2. Category 2 continuing competency activities are primarily either independent or unsupervised, or both. Licensees shall maintain documentation of completion of Category 2 activities. The following activities, and designated continuing competency credit hours, are considered Category 2 continuing competency:

(a) Relevant allied health seminars not identified as Category 1 activities. A credit hour is ((~~fifty~~)) 50 minutes spent in a course or other activity. A maximum of five continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation includes certificates or receipts with an authorized signature, stamp or seal.

(b) Practice management. For the purpose of this section, practice management includes only those activities which are directly related to patient care. A credit hour is ((~~fifty~~)) 50 minutes spent in this activity. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation includes verification of completion of a course or seminar, or a written certification by the licensee describing the activity, the total time required to complete the activity and the date completed.

(c) Journal reading, including electronic publications that are consistent with the goals specified in the individual licensee's professional enhancement plan.

(i) Scientific journals with required examination. Each examination qualifies for two continuing competency credit hours. A maximum of six continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a certificate issued by the sponsoring organization or author showing successful completion of the examination.

(ii) Scientific journals not requiring an examination. Each report qualifies for one continuing competency credit hour. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation for each article is a written report identifying the publication source, author, publication date, and a summary of at least five points from the article.

(iii) Business journals. Each report qualifies for one continuing competency credit hour. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation for each article, is a written report identifying the publication source, author, publication date, and a summary of at least five points from the article.

(d) Instruction video, videodisc or internet courses. A credit hour is ((~~fifty~~)) 50 minutes spent in this activity. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a written report identifying the source of the instruction, the release

date, and summarizing at least five points presented in the instruction.

(e) Manufacturer courses sponsored by organizations not identified as Category 1 activities. A credit hour is (~~fifty~~) 50 minutes spent in this activity. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation includes certificates or receipts with an authorized signature, stamp or seal.

(f) Participating in peer review. For the purpose of this section, peer review means either serving on a formal peer review panel, committee or individual review of a sole provider, where the purpose of the review is to determine whether appropriate treatment was rendered, or whether the services rendered were within accepted standards. Each occurrence qualifies for three credit hours. A maximum of nine continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a certification signed by the facilitator of the peer review providing the date and the total time spent in the peer review process.

(g) Student or peer mentoring.

(i) Student mentoring. Each four-hour period spent in this activity qualifies for one credit hour. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a copy of the mentoring contract or agreement and a certification from the student substantiating the date(s) engaged in mentoring and the total mentoring time.

(ii) Peer mentoring. Each four-hour period spent in this activity qualifies for one credit hour. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a certification summarizing the subject of the mentoring, the date, and total mentoring time and signed by the licensee and at least one other practitioner participating in the mentoring activity.

(h) Documented group study. A credit hour is (~~fifty~~) 50 minutes spent in this activity. A maximum of six continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a summary of the group study topics, the date, and total group study time, signed by the facilitator or other authorized personnel.

(i) Grand rounds. Each report qualifies for one credit hour. A maximum of three continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Acceptable documentation is a report summarizing the cases presented, the location, date, and total time spent in the grand rounds activity and signed by the facilitator or other authorized personnel.

(j) Presentation or lecture to professional group. Each presentation or lecture qualifies for two credit hours. A maximum of six continuing competency credit hours may be earned in this activity in any three-year reporting period. Credit for subsequent presentations will only be considered if the licensee can demonstrate that substantial additional preparation was required. Acceptable documentation is a course outline and a certification from the licensee providing the location, date and total presentation time.

(k) Successful completion of the Washington state jurisprudence examination. Licensees may claim one hour for this activity. This activity can only be claimed once during a three-year continuing competency education reporting cycle.

(1) Other activities that enhance or expand the practice may be submitted to the secretary for consideration.