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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
OF AN  
INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

**Title of Interpretive Statement:** “Clinical supervision” for Mental Health Professionals working in Behavioral Health Agencies licensed under chapter 246-341 WAC.  
Number: CHS-08-27-19

**Issuing Entity:** Department of Health

**Subject Matter:** Interpreting the definition of “clinical supervision” as it relates to Mental Health Professionals

**Effective Date:** August 27, 2019

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
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**WSR 19-18-027**

# Interpretive Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

<i>Title:</i>	"Clinical supervision" for Mental Health Professionals working in Behavioral Health Agencies licensed under chapter 246-341 WAC	<i>Number:</i> CHS-08-27-19
<i>References:</i>	<a href="#">WAC 236-341-0200</a>	
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<i>Effective Date:</i>	August 27, 2019	
<i>Supercedes:</i>	None	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Kristin Peterson, Assistant Secretary	

The Department of Health interprets the definition of "clinical supervision" in WAC 246-341-0200 to mean a person may provide supervision in a licensed Behavioral Health Agency if credentialed by either license, certification or registration, and who meets the Mental Health Professional (MHP) requirements<sup>1</sup> of having at least a master's degree in counseling or related field and having at least two years of experience in the direct treatment of persons with mental illness that was gained under the supervision of an MHP.

[The definition of "clinical supervision" in WAC 246-341-0200](#) currently reads as follows:

*"Clinical supervision" means regular and periodic activities performed by a professional licensed or certified under Title 18 RCW practicing within their scope of practice. Clinical supervision includes review of assessment, diagnostic formulation, treatment planning, progress toward completion of care, identification of barriers to care, continuation of services, authorization of care, and the direct observation of the delivery of clinical care.*

In 2018 the Department of Social and Health Services' definition of "clinical supervision" for Mental Health Professionals working in Behavioral Health Agencies was amended when the Department of Health (department) took over the regulation of Behavioral Health Services. The definition was amended to reflect the behavioral health credentials that are under the authority of the department. This amendment has caused some partners to request clarification from the department as to whether a particular type of credential is needed for a MPH to provide clinical supervision in a licensed Behavioral Health Agency.

The department does not interpret "clinical supervision" as defined in WAC 246-341-0200 to mean that an MHP must hold a particular type of credential to provide clinical supervision.

<sup>1</sup> The requirements for Mental Health Professional are outlined in [RCW 71.05.020](#) and further defined in [WAC 246-341-0200](#).

According to WAC 246-341-0200 the MHP must meet the requirements of having at least a master's degree in counseling or related field and having at least two years of experience in the direct treatment of persons with mental illness that was gained under the supervision of an MHP in order to provide clinical supervision. Many MHPs that meet these requirements hold an agency affiliated counselor credential while others may be credentialed as licensed social workers, marriage and family therapists or mental health counselors.

In summary, the department interprets the definition of "clinical supervision" in WAC 246-341-0200 to allow a person, credentialed by either license, certification or registration, who meets MHP requirements (having at least a master's degree in counseling or related field and having at least two years of experience in the direct treatment of persons with mental illness that was gained under the supervision of an MHP) to provide clinical supervision in a licensed Behavioral Health Agency.