



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

Medical Assistant Rules Hearing  
May 7, 2013

## Topics

- Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6237
- Rule making process
- Communications/stakeholder involvement
- Frequently asked questions
- Outline of proposed rules



## **ESSB 6237**

- Creates four medical assistant credentials in Washington State: medical assistant (MA)-certified, MA-registered, MA-phlebotomist, and MA-hemodialysis technician
- Transitions health care assistants (HCAs) who hold credentials on July 1, 2013 to a new category of MA
- Effective July 1, 2013
- Directs the Department of Health (department) to adopt rules necessary to implement the law

## **Rule making process**

- July 2012 – Notice to the public of intent to develop rules (CR101)
- October thru December 2012 – rules workshops
- April 2013 – Notice to the public of proposed rules (CR102)
- May 7, 2013 – Hearing to solicit comment from the public on the proposed rules
- June 1, 2013 – Notice to the public that the department is adopting rules (CR103)
- July 1, 2013 – Rules effective

## **Communications/stakeholder involvement**

- July thru August 2012 – workshops to solicit input from stakeholders for career ladder report
- August 2012 informational postcard sent to supervising health care practitioners
- October thru November 2012 – rules workshops held in Tumwater and Renton and rules webinar
- Two drafts of rules sent for public review/comment
- FAQ updates, listserv notices, & newsletter message

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

- Q: Who will transition to MA-registered?
- A: No categories of HCA will transition to MA-registered
- Q: I hold multiple HCA categories. Will I receive multiple MA credentials?
- A: Next slide...



# HCA TO MA Transition

## Common

HCA Designation	HCA Credential Transitioned To
Category C, D, E, or F	MA-Certified
Category A or B	MA-Phlebotomist
Category G	MA-Hemodialysis technician
Category C, D, E, or F <b>AND</b> A	MA-Certified
Category C, D, E, or F <b>AND</b> B	MA-Certified <b>AND</b> MA-Phlebotomist

## Uncommon

Category C, D, E, or F <b>AND</b> G	MA-Certified <b>AND</b> MA-Hemodialysis technician
Category C, D, E, or F <b>AND</b> A <b>AND</b> G	MA-Certified <b>AND</b> MA-Hemodialysis technician
Category A or B <b>AND</b> G	MA-Phlebotomy <b>AND</b> MA-Hemodialysis technician

## **FAQs (cont'd)**

- Q: Will my expiration date stay the same?
- A: No, your new expiration date will be on your birthday
- Q: Will HCAs who transition to MA-certified be required to take an exam?
- A: No
- Q: When can I apply for an MA credential?
- A: The MA applications will be available June 1, 2013

## **FAQs (cont'd)**

- Q: My HCA credential expires after July. Do I need to renew it? Do I need to apply for an MA credential?
- A: You do not need to renew your HCA if it expires on or after July 1, 2013, no application is necessary
- Q: Will Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1515 affect the MA law?
- A: Yes, ESHB will amend the MA law and will be effective July 1, 2013

## **Proposed rules**

WAC 246-827-0010 Definitions

WAC 246-827-0100 Applicability

- Addresses when an MA credential is required
- Personnel performing only administrative tasks do not need an MA credential

WAC 246-827-0110 Delegation and supervision

- Clarifies the MA's responsibilities related to accepting delegated tasks



## Proposed rules (cont'd)

WAC 246-827-0120 General standards

- Standard that apply to all MA categories

WAC 246-827-0130 U.S. armed forces equivalency



## Proposed rules (cont'd)

WAC 246-827-0200 Medical assistant-certified --  
Training and examination

- Complete MA training program
  - 4 proposed options
- Pass an exam within 3 years prior to submission of initial application
  - 4 proposed exams



## **Proposed rules (cont'd)**

WAC 246-827-0220 Medical assistant-certified --  
Application -- Interim certification

WAC 246-827-0230 Medical assistant-certified --  
Activities allowed or prohibited

## **Proposed rules (cont'd)**

WAC 246-827-0240 Medical assistant-certified --  
Administering medications and injections

- Medication administration orders must be in written form or contained in the patient's electronic health record
- MA-certified is prohibited from administering schedule II controlled substances, chemotherapy agents, or experimental drugs

Drug Category	Routes Permitted	Level of Supervision Required
Controlled Substances, schedule III, IV, and V	Oral, topical, rectal, otic, ophthalmic, or inhaled routes	Immediate supervision
	Subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular, or peripheral intravenous injections	Direct visual supervision
Other legend drugs	Intravenous injections	Direct visual supervision
	All other routes	Immediate supervision

## **Proposed rules (cont'd)**

WAC 246-827-0300 Medical assistant-registered --  
Application

WAC 246-827-0310 Medical assistant-registered --  
Endorsement

- Attestation of endorsement form required

WAC 246-827-0320 Medical assistant-registered --  
credential termination

WAC 246-827-0330 Medical assistant-registered --  
collection of specimens

## **Proposed rules (cont'd)**

WAC 246-827-0400 Medical assistant-phlebotomist --  
Certification and training

- Phlebotomy program through a postsecondary school or college
- Phlebotomy training program

WAC 246-827-0410 Medical assistant-phlebotomist --  
Application

WAC 246-827-0420 Medical assistant-phlebotomist --  
Supervision -- Requirements for performing arterial  
invasive procedures and line draws

## Proposed rules (cont'd)

WAC 246-827-0500 Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician -- Qualifications and training

- Complete a hemodialysis training program
- Hold a national credential as a hemodialysis technician

WAC 246-827-0510 Medical assistant-hemodialysis technician -- Application

WAC 246-827-0520 Conditions for performing hemodialysis

## **Proposed rules (cont'd)**

WAC 246-827-0600 Credential renewal

- Renewed every two years on MA's birthday

WAC 246-827-0610 Expired credential -- Return to active status

- Exam or training required when expired for 3+ years

WAC 246-827-0620 Inactive status

WAC 246-827-0630 Retired volunteer medical worker credential



## **Proposed rules (cont'd)**

Amending WAC 246-826-990

- Necessary to facilitate transition of HCA to MA on July 1, 2013

[www.doh.wa.gov/medicalassistant](http://www.doh.wa.gov/medicalassistant)

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