



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47852 · Olympia Washington 98504-7852

January 28, 2014

Dear Hospital Administrator:

I want to let you know about a rule amendment recently adopted by the Washington State Department of Health.

On December 23, 2013, the department amended [WAC 246-320-141](#), the patient rights and organizational ethics rule. The goal of the amendment is to provide transparency for patients and consumers.

The changes to the rule require the following action:

- You must submit copies of your admission, non-discrimination, end of life care and reproductive healthcare policies to the Department of Health by March 25, 2014.
- Email your policies to the department. The department will post your policies on our website.
 - Email the policies in PDF format
 - Zip the files before you send
 - Email policies to: HospitalPolicies@doh.wa.gov.
- You must post these policies on your hospital website. The policies must be accessible to the public without having to use a log-in or other restriction.
- If you make changes or additions to any of these policies, you must provide the department with a revised copy within 30 days of hospital approval. You must also post the updated policies on your web site.
- The new rule does not affect your existing requirement to submit charity care information and policies to the department. Please continue to submit this information to: charitycare@doh.wa.gov.

The Washington State Hospital Association is working with the Governor's Office to develop a model hospital policy on non-discrimination. Also, the association is developing a set of resources for hospitals related to the other policies identified in this memo. Please contact Taya Briley tayab@wsha.org or Cassie Sauer cassies@wsha.org for more information.

If you have questions, please contact Don Fernandes at 360-236-2932 or email him at: hospitalpolicies@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hodgson
Office of Health Professions and Facilities