



Legislation Update – HB1424 - New Continuing Education Hour Requirement in Suicide Screening and Referral (Three hours)
Program Staff

Legislation passed in 2014 under [HB2315](#) requiring health professionals to obtain continuing education (CE) in patient suicide prevention. This bill required disciplinary authorities, such as the [Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission](#) (Commission), to adopt rules to implement this legislation.

The Commission previously determined that all Washington State licensed chiropractors must obtain a minimum of three CE hours in patient suicide screening and referral one time. The Commission also previously amended [WAC 246-808-150](#) accordingly.

HB 1424, which passed during this legislative session, provides that the one-time training must be completed by the end of the first full reporting period after January 1, 2016 or during the first full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later. The bill clarifies that training completed between June 12, 2014, and January 1, 2016, will be accepted as meeting the requirement. HB 1424 takes effect on July 24, 2015.

The Department of Health has developed a model list of vendors that offer this type of CE training. The list is available at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/MentalHealthProfessions/SuicideAssessmentTreatmentandManagementCE/FrequentlyAskedQuestions>.

Courses on this model list are only **examples** of courses that meet the requirement. Under HB 2315 courses need not be on this model list in order to satisfy the CE requirement. However, beginning July 1, 2017, the training must be on the model list under HB 1424, which passed this year. Thus, any suicide screening and referral CE that is at least three hours in length, and is taken by June 30, 2017, will count as meeting the one-time training requirement. CE taken on or after July 1, 2017 will have to be from a vendor on the approved model list as specified in HB 1424.

The Commission doesn't pre-approve CE courses or providers as established in [WAC 246-808-155](#).

The Commission will open the CE rule under [WAC 246-808-150](#) again to recognize the approved model list as directed in HB 1424. The CE requirement doesn't change. It remains a three-hour, one-time requirement in suicide screening and referral. All valid suicide CE hours taken will be counted toward the licensure renewal CE hour requirement of 25 hours.