



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890

Tel: (360) 236-4501 • FAX: (360) 586-7424 • TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AN INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT  
OR POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Interpretive or Policy Statement: Completion dates for continuing education in suicide assessment, treatment, and management as it applies to psychologists.

Issuing Entity: Examining Board of Psychology

Subject Matter: Continuing Education

Effective Date: November 6, 2014

Contact Person: Betty, Moe Program Manager  
Health Systems Quality Assurance  
Department of Health  
PO Box 47852  
Olympia, WA 98504-7852  
360.236.4912

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: December 18, 2014  
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WSR 15-01-108

# Policy Statement

Revised -- 10/18/11

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Title: Completion dates for continuing education in suicide assessment, treatment, and management as it applies to psychologists.

Number:  
DOH-HSQA-2014-002

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References: RCW 43.70.442, chapter 246-924WAC

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Contact: Betty Moe, Program Manager

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Phone: (360) 236-4912

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Email: [Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov)

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Effective Date: September 19, 2014

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Supercedes: N/A

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Approved By: Timothy Cahn, Ph.D, Chair, Examining Board of Psychology



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The Examining Board of Psychology (board) will accept any continuing education (CE) related to suicide assessment, treatment, and management qualifying under WAC 246-925-255 taken after January 1, 2014 to meet the first training requirement as it applies to psychologists.

RCW 43.70.442 requires six hours in suicide assessment, treatment and management for psychologists. This includes providers in retired active license status. Psychologists must complete the first training during the first full CE reporting period after January 1, 2014. However, many psychologists completed this training after January 1, 2014, but before the beginning of their first full CE reporting period.

If the board interprets the law as not accepting training completed between January 1, 2014 and the beginning of the first full reporting period after January 1, 2014 toward meeting the mandatory training requirements, psychologists will be penalized for being proactive.

The goal of this legislation is to educate psychologists on issues related to suicide. The sooner psychologists are educated on the topic, the sooner they can provide better care to the citizens of this state. It does not further the goal of the legislature or the mission of the board to penalize psychologists for receiving potentially life-saving education too early based on CE reporting schedules.

The board believes the intent of this training requirement was to encourage providers to meet the training requirement as soon as possible. This supports the board's mission to work with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State. Therefore, the board will accept any qualifying training that was taken after January 1, 2014 to meet the first training requirement even if the training did not occur during the psychologists' first full CE period.