



# State of Washington

## Medical Quality Assurance Commission

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**2012 Best of Boards Award Recipient -Administrators in Medicine**

**2014 Best of Boards Honorable Mention -Administrators in Medicine**

***Promoting patient safety and enhancing the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rule-making, and education.***

### Overview

- The Commission successfully completed a pilot project in 2013 which resulted in permanent statutory authority
- 21 members: 13 MDs, 2 PAs, 6 public members
- 39 staff, \$14.8M biennial budget
- The Commission licenses 30,000 physicians and physician assistants

### Significant Accomplishments

- Adopted social media and telemedicine guidelines
- Adopted chronic noncancer pain management rules
- Established rule regulating office-based surgery
- Established rule regulating non-surgical medical cosmetic procedures
- 90.9% of investigations completed on time in 2014
- 89.6% of legal processes completed on time in 2014
- Reduced investigative aged-case backlog by 99%
- 99% of disciplinary orders in compliance with sanction guidelines
- Created legal orders that are more clear, consistent, and transparent

### Actions in Fiscal 2014

- Issued 2,290 new licenses
- Received 1,488 complaints/reports
- Investigated 909 complaints/reports
- Completed legal process on 903 complaints/reports
- Issued 71 disciplinary orders
- Summarily suspended or restricted 11 licenses
- Actively monitoring 181 practitioners
- 48 practitioners successfully completed compliance programs

### Current Issues

- Conducting rule-making to update physician assistant practice law
- Monitoring national licensure legislation
- Studying feasibility of an Interstate Physician Licensure Compact
- Exploring requirements to ensure continuing competency
- Increasing educational outreach to profession and public
- Developing stakeholder partnerships to reduce medical errors
- Building demographic database of Washington practitioners
- Studying disciplinary recidivism among practitioners



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