State of Washington
Medical Quality Assurance Commission

Interpretive Statement

Title:	Licensing of Physician Applicants Who Have Not Practiced for an Extended Amount of Time	MD2008-01
References:	WAC 246-919-370(d)	
Contact:	Michael Farrell, JD, Policy Development Manager	
Phone:	(509) 329-2186	E-mail: michael.farrell@doh.wa.gov
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Approved By:	W. Michelle Terry, MD, FAAP, Chair	

Background Information

The Commission receives applications from practitioners who have been out of practice for an extended period of time. The Commission wishes to have a consistent approach when processing these applications.

Analysis

WAC 246-919-370 provides as follows:

> (1) The commission may require an applicant or licensee to pass the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) or any other examination deemed appropriate. An applicant or licensee may be required to take an examination when the commission has concerns with the applicant's or licensee's ability to practice competently for reasons which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
>
> > (d) Not having practiced for an interval of time.

There is no definition of "interval of time." The Commission has the ability to interpret the rule to define "interval of time."

Interpretation Position

The Commission interprets “Not having practiced for an interval of time” to mean more than the immediate two years prior to the application. Therefore, in accordance with WAC 246-919-370 (d) the Commission may on a case-by-case basis require any applicant who has not practiced for a period of two years or more to take and successfully pass the SPEX or any other examination deemed appropriate.

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