

**Department of Health
Medical Quality Assurance Commission**

Policy

Title:	Elective Educational Rotations	MD2011-09
References:	RCW 18.71.030(6) and (8), 18.71.230, 18.130	
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Approved By:	W. Michelle Terry, MD, FAAP, Chair (signature on file)	

Description of the Issue:

Individuals and/or residency programs request a decision that would allow the specific individual to complete a 1 or 2 month elective educational rotation to a facility within Washington State.

RCW 18.71.030 states “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to . . . prohibit: (6) The practice of medicine by any practitioner licensed by another state or territory in which he or she resides, provided that such practitioner shall not open an office or appoint a place of meeting patients or receiving calls within this state.” And “(8) The practice of medicine by a person serving a period of postgraduate medical training in a program of clinical medical training sponsored by a college or university in this state or by a hospital accredited in this state, however, the performance of such services shall be only pursuant to his or her duties as a trainee.”

Background

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission receives requests from individuals in residency programs in other states who wish to complete a 1 to 2 month elective educational rotation to facilities within Washington State. A one-time statement would facilitate these requests for both Commission staff and the programs or individuals requesting exemption.

Stakeholders

- Resident Physicians
- Residency Programs in other states
- Hospitals, managed care organizations, clinics

Position

It is the finding of the Commission that individuals completing an elective educational rotation in Washington State are exempt from licensure for the specific purpose of completing the rotation. Although these individuals are exempt from licensure, any practice of medicine in the state of Washington is subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA) Chapter 18.130 RCW as specified in Chapter 18.71.230 RCW "A right to practice medicine and surgery by an individual in this state pursuant to RCW 18.71.030 (5) through (12) shall be subject to discipline by order of the commission upon a finding by the commission of an act of unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW 18.130.180 or that the individual is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a mental or physical condition as described in RCW 18.130.170."
