



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
PO Box 47866, Olympia, WA 98504-7866

November 6, 2014

**Olympia, WA**-The Medical Quality Assurance Commission welcomes the announcement of a performance audit of its disciplinary processes by the State Auditor's Office. Though confident in the validity and performance of its processes, the commission recognizes the importance of periodic independent and objective assessments of those activities. Possessing an internally diverse mix of views, training, backgrounds and geographies – the commission values continual learning and quality improvement. As a result it looks forward to working with the State Auditor's Office to identify potential areas for improvement in its disciplinary process.

The commission is committed to fulfilling its charge to protect patient safety, and it is proud to have been repeatedly recognized by peers, critics, and governing authorities as a high performing and progressive professional regulating organization. Recent examples include:

- Top ten ranking in the U.S. by Public Citizen in 2012 for issuing serious discipline.
- 2012 Best of Boards award by the Administrators in Medicine for education programs related to chronic non-cancer pain rules.
- A 2013 successful five-year pilot project enacted by the legislature to test additional authority over personnel and budget. The pilot/sunset report is available on our website: <http://go.usa.gov/Djpm>
- Passage of 2SHB 1518 in 2013 making permanent the additional authority of the pilot project. This signifies the approval by the legislature and the Governor with the increased performance of the commission.
- 2014 Best of Boards honorable mention for guidelines on using social media in a non-clinical setting with patients.
- 2014 development and adoption of guidelines for the practice of telemedicine.

The commission is confident that the findings of the State Auditor's Office will reflect what the patients, practitioners, the legislature, and Governor of Washington have known for years; that the Medical Quality Assurance Commission is an organization that puts patient safety first, while respecting the law and due process.

###

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission promotes patient safety and enhances the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rule-making, and education.