



Washington State Department of

Health

Health Systems Quality Assurance

PO Box 47877

Olympia, WA 98504-7877

Who Can Prescribe and Administer Rx in Washington State?

Profession	Restriction	Out-of-State Rx Accepted	RCW/WAC	Comments
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)	None	Yes – except controlled substances RCW 69.41.030	RCW 18.79.250 RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) WAC 246-840-400 thru 420	Drugs must be within scope of practice.
Certified Osteopathic Physician Assistants (OA) and non-certified Osteopathic Physician Assistant (IO)	OA Certified can prescribe Schedule II-V. IO limited to Schedule III-V controlled substance.	No	Chapter 18.57A RCW WAC 246-854-030 Chapter 18.57 RCW RCW 69.41.030	May prescribe and dispense a 48-hour supply.
Certified Physician Assistants (PA-C)	As approved by the Medical Commission	No	Chapter 18.71A RCW WAC 246-918-035 RCW 69.41.030	May dispense medications from office supplies.
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	Legend & Schedule II-IV for anesthesia per facility protocols.	No	RCW 18.79.240(r) RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w)	
Dentist (DMD or DDS)	None.	Yes	Chapter 18.32 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w)	WAC 246-817-360 Dental-related conditions
Naturopath (Naturopathic Doctor or ND)	Controlled substance prescription are limited to testosterone and codeine-containing substances in Schedules III-V.	No	Chapter 18.36A RCW WAC 246-836-210	
Optometrist (OD)	Must write “TX” following the license # on all prescriptions. No oral steroids. Epinephrine by injection for anaphylactic shock. May write controlled substance prescriptions for Schedule III-V only and are limited to 7 days per single condition.	No	Chapter 18.53 RCW WAC 246-851-580 WAC 246-851-590	Practitioners must meet certification requirements to receive prescriptive authority. Prescriptions must be within scope of practice.

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Osteopathic Physicians (DO)	None	Yes	Chapter 18.57 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w)	
Pharmacist (RPh or PharmD)	Initiate, modify, or continue drug therapy under agreement with authorized prescriber. Agreement must be on file with the Board of Pharmacy.	No	RCW 18.64.011(11) WAC 246-863-100	May prescribe legend drugs, including controlled substances and vaccines with a collaborative agreement.
Physician Assistants (PA)	As approved by the Medical Commission	No	Chapter 18.71A RCW RCW 69.41.030 WAC 246-918-030	May dispense medications from office supplies.
Physicians (MD)	None	Yes	Chapter 18.71 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w)	
Podiatric Physician (DPM)	None	Yes	Chapter 18.22 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w)	Podiatry practice only.
Veterinarian (DVM)	For animal treatment only.	Yes	Chapter 18.92 RCW WAC 246-933-110 and 340 RCW 18.92.012 RCW 18.92.013	DVM may dispense limited amount of prescriptions prescribed by other DVM's.

General Prescribing Limitations	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May not prescribe controlled substances for self, but is permitted for family members. 2. Prescriptions written by MD, DO, DDS, DPM, DMD, and DVM from out-of-state or British Columbia may be dispensed. Not permitted for other out-of-state prescribers. RCW 69.41.030 and RCW 69.50.101(w)(3) 3. No controlled substances can be dispensed for prescriptions written by practitioners from British Columbia because they are not DEA registrants. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Prescriptions must be for a legitimate medical purpose. 5. There must be a valid "doctor-patient" relationship. 6. Drugs must be within scope of practice.

Professions Which May Administer Drugs Ordered by Authorized Prescribers

Profession	Authorization
Dental Hygienists Chapter 18.29 RCW	Local anesthetics, topical fluoride, and antimicrobials for dental patients only.
Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) RCW 18.73.081	Administration of prescribed drugs within scope of practice per verbal or written orders of MD or DO also credentialed as a County Medical Program Director (MPD) or MPD Delegate.
Health Care Assistant chapter 18.135 RCW , Chapter 246-826 WAC Categories A through G - FAQs	Limited authority to administer certain drugs as determined by rule and as prescribed by a supervising health care practitioner who is physically present. Only category/class C and E Health Care Assistants may administer approved oral drugs.
Intermediate Life Support Technician (ILS) RCW 18.71.205	Administration of prescribed drugs within scope of practice per verbal or written orders of MD or DO also credentialed as a County Medical Program Director (MPD) or MPD Delegate
Licensed Midwives RCW 18.50.115 WAC 246-834-250	Purchase and administer certain drugs. May also administer drugs that have been prescribed by a physician.
Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN) Chapter 18.79 RCW	Administer prescribed drugs
Nursing Assistant (CNA or NA) Chapter 18.88A RCW	May administer in community-based care settings or in-home care settings under nurse delegation.
Occupational Therapist RCW 18.59.040 , Chapter 246-847 WAC	May purchase, store, and administer certain topical drugs as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner
Paramedic RCW 18.71.205	Administration of prescribed drugs within scope of practice per verbal or written orders of MD or DO also credentialed as a County Medical Program Director (MPD) or MPD Delegate
Pharmacist (RPh or PharmD) Chapter 18.64 RCW	Administer prescribed drugs.
Physical Therapists (PT) Chapter 18.74 RCW	May purchase, store, and administer certain drugs as determined by law and may administer such other drugs or medications as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner for the practice of physical therapy.
Radiologic Technologist Chapter 18.84 RCW	Administer diagnostic and therapeutic agents under the direct supervision of a physician.
Radiologist Assistant Chapter 18.84 RCW	Administer imaging and non-imaging agents parenterally, administer oral medications; level of supervision specified in regulation WAC 246-926-300 .
Registered Nurse (RN) chapter 18.79 RCW	Administer prescribed drugs
Respiratory Care Practitioner chapter 18.89 RCW	Administer prescribed drugs for the practice of respiratory care as defined by statute.
School Personnel RCW 28A.210.260 thru 280	Superintendent of Public Instruction - Health Services - http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices
Veterinary Technicians RCW 18.92.013 & WAC 246-935-050	May administer prescribed drugs with indirect supervision of a veterinarian.

Examples of Professions Which May Not Prescribe, Administer, or Dispense Drugs

Profession	Rule
East Asian Medicine Practitioner	Chapter 18.06 RCW
Athletic Trainers, Licensed	Chapter 18.250 RCW
Chiropractors	Chapter 18.25 RCW
Chemical Dependency Professionals & Chemical Dependency Professional Trainees	Chapter 18.205 RCW
Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist & Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate	Chapter 18.225 RCW
Counselors, Licensed Mental Health Counselors & Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate	Chapter 18.225 RCW
Counselors, Certified Counselors, Certified Adviser, Agency Affiliated Counselors, and Hypnotherapists	Chapter 18.19 RCW
Counselors, Licensed Social Workers & Licensed Social Work Associate Advanced & Licensed Social Work Associate Independent Clinical	Chapter 18.225 RCW
Dental Assistants, Registered	RCW 18.260.040
Dietitians & Nutritionists	Chapter 18.138 RCW
Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary, Licensed	RCW 18.260.050
Massage Practitioners	Chapter 18.108 RCW
Ocularist	Chapter 18.55 RCW
Opticians	Chapter 18.34 RCW
Orthotist and Prosthetist	Chapter 18.200 RCW
Pharmacy Technicians	Chapter 18.64A RCW (may assist pharmacist)
Psychologist	Chapter 18.83 RCW
Sex Offender Treatment Provider & Affiliate Providers	Chapter 18.155 RCW
Veterinary Medication Clerks	RCW 18.92.030 and 125 (may assist veterinarian)
X-Ray Technicians	Chapter 18.84 RCW