



Washington State Department of

**Health**

Health Systems Quality Assurance

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## Who Can Prescribe/Administer/Possess Legend Drugs and/or Controlled Substances in Washington State?

Profession	Restriction	Out-of-State Rx Accepted	RCW/WAC	Comments
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)	None	Yes	<a href="#">RCW 18.79.250</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.41.030</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-840-400 thru 451</a>	Drugs must be within scope of practice. <b>Note:</b> See <a href="#">RCW 18.79.400</a> and <a href="#">WAC 246-840-460 thru 493</a> for prescriptions related to pain management and restrictions in prescribing Opioid equivalent medications.
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.	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.57A</a> <a href="#">RCW 18.57</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-854-030</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.41.030</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	May prescribe and dispense a 48-hour supply.
Certified Physician Assistants (PA-C)	As approved by the Medical Commission	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.71A</a> <a href="#">RCW 18.71</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-918-035</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.41.030</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	May dispense medications from office supplies.
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	Legend & Schedule II-IV for anesthesia per facility protocols.	No	<a href="#">RCW 18.79.240(r)</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.41.030</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	
Dentist (DMD or DDS)	None.	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.32</a> <a href="#">RCW 18.32</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.41.030</a> <a href="#">RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	<a href="#">WAC 246-817-360</a> Dental-related conditions
Naturopath (Naturopathic Doctor or ND)	Controlled substance prescriptions are limited to testosterone and codeine-containing substances in Schedules III-V.	No	<a href="#">Chapter 18.36A</a> <a href="#">RCW 18.36A</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-836-210</a>	

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Naturopath (Naturopathic Doctor or ND)	Controlled substance prescriptions are limited to testosterone and codeine-containing substances in Schedules III-V.	No	<a href="#">Chapter 18.36A RCW WAC 246-836-210</a>	
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	<a href="#">Chapter 18.53 RCW WAC 246-851-580 WAC 246-851-590</a>	Practitioners must meet certification requirements to receive prescriptive authority. Prescriptions must be within scope of practice.
Osteopathic Physicians (DO)	None	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.57 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	
Pharmacist (RPh or PharmD)	Initiate, modify, or continue drug therapy under agreement with authorized prescriber. Agreement must be on file with the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission.	No	<a href="#">RCW 18.64.011(11) WAC 246-863-100 RCW 69.41.030</a>	May prescribe legend drugs, including controlled substances*, and vaccines in accordance with a collaborative drug therapy protocol. * Pharmacist must hold a DEA registration.
Physician Assistants (PA)	As approved by the Medical Commission	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.71A RCW RCW 69.41.030 WAC 246-918-030</a>	May dispense medications from office supplies.
Physicians (MD)	None	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.71 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	
Podiatric Physician (DPM)	None	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.22 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	Podiatry practice only.
Veterinarian (DVM)	For animal treatment only.	Yes	<a href="#">Chapter 18.92 RCW WAC 246-933-110 and 340 RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(ee)(3)</a>	DVM may dispense limited amount of prescriptions prescribed by other DVM's.

## General Prescribing Limitations

1. Practitioners with prescriptive authority may not prescribe controlled substances for themselves, but they may prescribe for family members.
2. Prescriptions written for legend drugs, including controlled substances, by the following prescribers licensed in any state of the United States may be dispensed by a Washington pharmacist/pharmacy. Physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery, physicians licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery, dentists licensed to practice dentistry, podiatric physician and surgeons licensed to practice podiatric medicine and surgery, licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners, a licensed physician assistant, a licensed osteopathic physician assistant, or a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine. [RCW 69.41.030](#) and [RCW 69.50.101\(ee\) \(3\)](#).
3. Prescriptions written for legend drugs, not including controlled substances may be dispensed by a Washington pharmacist/pharmacy if written by any of the practitioners listed in #2 licensed to practice in British Columbia.
4. All valid prescriptions are written for a legitimate medical purpose.
5. There must be valid “doctor-patient” relationship.
6. Prescriptions must be written within the practitioner’s scope of practice.
7. Prescriptions written in Washington for delivery to the pharmacy must be on tamper-resistant prescription paper approved by the Washington Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission ([RCW 18.64.500](#))
8. Washington written prescriptions must have two signature lines at opposite ends on the bottom of the prescription form. “DISPENSE AS WRITTEN” on the right and “SUBSTITUTION PERMITTED” on the left. [RCW.69.41.120](#)

## Professions That May Administer Drugs Ordered by Authorized Prescribers

Profession	Authorization
Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists <a href="#">Chapter 18.84 RCW</a>	Administer diagnostic and therapeutic agents during cardiac or vascular catheterization procedures under the personal supervision of a physician.
Dental Anesthesia Assistants <a href="#">RCW 18.350.040</a>	
Dental Assistants, Registered <a href="#">RCW 18.260.040</a>	
Dental Hygienists Chapter <a href="#">18.29 RCW</a>	Local anesthetics, topical fluoride, and antimicrobials for dental patients only.
Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) <a href="#">RCW 18.73.081</a>	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.
Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries <a href="#">RCW 18.260.070</a>	
Intermediate Life Support Technician (ILS) <a href="#">RCW 18.71.205</a>	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 <a href="#">RCW 18.50.115</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-834-250</a>	Purchase and administer certain drugs. May also administer drugs that have been prescribed by a physician.
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Chapter <a href="#">18.79 RCW</a> & <a href="#">WAC 246-840</a>	Administer prescribed drugs within, scope of practice, under the general direction of an ARNP, MD, DO, DPM, DDS, PA, or ND.

## Professions That May Administer Drugs Ordered by Authorized Prescribers – cont'd

Profession	Authorization
Medical Assistant (MA)-Certified, MA-Registered, and MA-Hemodialysis Technician <a href="#">Chapter 18.360 RCW</a> and <a href="#">Chapter 236-827 WAC</a>	Administer prescribed drugs within scope of practice (see RCW 18.360.050) and under the supervision of a health care practitioner as defined in RCW 18.36.010(3). MA-Hemodialysis Technician may administer oxygen and drugs necessary for hemodialysis (see WAC 246-827-0500 & WAC 246-827-0520). Ma-Register may administer eye drops, topical ointments, and vaccines, including combination or multidose vaccines. See WAC 246-827-0240 for MA–Certified.
Nursing Assistant (CNA or NA) <a href="#">Chapter 18.88A RCW</a>	May administer in community-based care settings or in-home care settings under nurse delegation.
Occupational Therapist RCW <a href="#">18.59.040</a> , Chapter <a href="#">246-847 WAC</a>	May purchase, store, and administer certain topical drugs as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner
Paramedic <a href="#">RCW 18.71.205</a>	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 <a href="#">18.64 RCW</a>	Administer prescribed drugs.
Physical Therapists (PT)Chapter <a href="#">18.74 RCW</a>	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 <a href="#">Chapter 18.84 RCW</a>	Administer diagnostic and therapeutic agents under the direct supervision of a physician.
Radiologist Assistant <a href="#">Chapter 18.84 RCW</a>	Administer imaging and non-imaging agents parenterally, administer oral medications; level of supervision specified in regulation <a href="#">WAC 246-926-300</a> .
Registered Nurse (RN) chapter <a href="#">18.79 RCW</a> & <a href="#">WAC 246-840</a>	Administer prescribed drugs under the general direction, within scope of practice, of an under the general of an ARNP, MD, DO, DPM, DDS, PA or ND.
Respiratory Care Practitioner chapter <a href="#">18.89 RCW</a>	Administer prescribed drugs for the practice of respiratory care as defined by statute.
School Personnel RCW <a href="#">28A.210.260 thru 280</a>	Superintendent of Public Instruction - Health Services - <a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices">http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices</a>
Veterinary Technicians <a href="#">RCW 18.92.013</a> & <a href="#">WAC 246-935-410 thru 440</a>	May administer prescribed drugs with indirect supervision of a veterinarian.

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

Profession	Authorizing Statute
East Asian Medicine Practitioner	<a href="#">Chapter 18.06 RCW</a>
Athletic Trainers, Licensed	<a href="#">Chapter 18.250 RCW</a>
Chiropractors & Chiropractic X-Ray Technicians	<a href="#">Chapter 18.25 RCW</a>
Chemical Dependency Professionals & Chemical Dependency Professional Trainees	<a href="#">Chapter 18.205 RCW</a>
Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist & Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate	<a href="#">Chapter 18.225 RCW</a>
Counselors, Licensed Mental Health Counselors & Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate	<a href="#">Chapter 18.225 RCW</a>
Counselors, Certified Counselors, Certified Adviser, Agency Affiliated Counselors, and Hypnotherapists	<a href="#">Chapter 18.19 RCW</a>
Counselors, Licensed Social Workers & Licensed Social Work Associate Advanced & Licensed Social Work Associate Independent Clinical	<a href="#">Chapter 18.225 RCW</a>

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

Profession	Authorizing Statute
Denturist	<a href="#">Chapter 18.30 RCW</a>
Dietitians & Nutritionists	<a href="#">Chapter 18.138 RCW</a>
Genetic Counselors	<a href="#">Chapter 18.290 RCW</a>
Massage Practitioners	<a href="#">Chapter 18.108 RCW</a>
Medical Assistant-Phlebotomist	<a href="#">Chapter 18.360 RCW</a>
Ocularist	<a href="#">Chapter 18.55 RCW</a>
Opticians	<a href="#">Chapter 18.34 RCW</a>
Orthotist and Prosthetist	<a href="#">Chapter 18.200 RCW</a>
Pharmacy Technicians	<a href="#">Chapter 18.64A RCW</a> (may assist pharmacist)
Psychologist	<a href="#">Chapter 18.83 RCW</a>
Sex Offender Treatment Provider & Affiliate Providers	<a href="#">Chapter 18.155 RCW</a>
Veterinary Medication Clerks	<a href="#">RCW 18.92.030 and 125</a> (may assist veterinarian)
Surgical Technologist	<a href="#">Chapter 18.215 RCW</a>
X-Ray Technicians	<a href="#">Chapter 18.84 RCW</a>