NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AN INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT
OR POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Interpretive or Policy Statement: Completion dates for continuing education in suicide assessment, treatment, and management as it applies to psychologists.

Issuing Entity: Examining Board of Psychology

Subject Matter: Continuing Education

Effective Date: November 6, 2014

Contact Person: Betty, Moe Program Manager
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Department of Health
PO Box 47852
Olympia, WA 98504-7852
360.236.4912
The Examing Board of Psychology (board) will accept any continuing education (CE) related to suicide assessment, treatment, and management qualifying under WAC 246-925-255 taken after January 1, 2014 to meet the first training requirement as it applies psychologists.

RCW 43.70.442 requires six hours in suicide assessment, treatment and management for psychologists. This includes providers in retired active license status. Psychologists must complete the first training during the first full CE reporting period after January 1, 2014. However, many psychologists completed this training after January 1, 2014, but before the beginning of their first full CE reporting period.

If the board interprets the law as not accepting training completed between January 1, 2014 and the beginning of the first full reporting period after January 1, 2014 toward meeting the mandatory training requirements, psychologists will be penalized for being proactive.

The goal of this legislation is to educate psychologists on issues related to suicide. The sooner psychologists are educated on the topic, the sooner they can provide better care to the citizens of this state. It does not further the goal of the legislature or the mission of the board to penalize psychologists for receiving potentially life-saving education too early based on CE reporting schedules.

The board believes the intent of this training requirement was to encourage providers to meet the training requirement as soon as possible. This supports the board’s mission to work with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State. Therefore, the board will accept any qualifying training that was taken after January 1, 2014 to meet the first training requirement even if the training did not occur during the psychologists’ first full CE period.