Washington State Board of Health
Chapter 246-170 WAC - Tuberculosis—Prevention, Treatment, and Control
October 9, 2019

Cait Lang-Perez (she/her)
Health Policy Analyst, Washington State Board of Health
**Chapter 246-170 WAC - Tuberculosis—Prevention, Treatment, and Control**

- Authorizing statute: RCW 70.28.032 Due process standards for testing, treating, detaining—Reporting requirements—Training and scope for skin test administration
- Statutory authority: State Board of Health
- Purpose: The rule is intended to limit the spread of Tuberculosis (TB).
- Last update: January 1995

**Chapter 246-170 WAC Sections**

- WAC 246-170-002 Findings and purpose.
- WAC 246-170-011 Definitions.
- WAC 246-170-021 Responsibility of local health officers.
- WAC 246-170-031 Local health department responsibilities.
- WAC 246-170-035 Tuberculin skin testing and medication administration training.
- WAC 246-170-041 Inpatient services requirements. *(DOH Authority)*
Chapter 246-170 WAC Sections cont.

- WAC 246-170-051 Procedures for involuntary testing, treatment, and detention.
- WAC 246-170-055 Due process proceedings.
- WAC 246-170-061 Initiation of testing or treatment.
- WAC 246-170-065 Persons already detained, confined, or committed.

Rule Review

1. Is there a need for this rule? Yes.
2. Is the rule clear, concise, and reasonable? No.
3. Does the rule have statutory authority or meet the legislative intent? Yes.
4. How was the review coordinated? With stakeholder input.
**Rule Review cont.**

5. Can this rule be streamlined?  
   - Yes.

6. Does this rule have reporting requirements?  
   - Yes.

7. Does the rule achieve intended results?  
   - Yes.

8. Staff conclusions?  
   - Amend.

---

**Initial Feedback: WAC 246-170-002 – Findings and Purpose**

Align language with the contemporary understanding and context of TB.
Initial Feedback: WAC 246-170-021 – Responsibility of local health officers

The rule currently states, “This individual shall coordinate all aspects of the prevention, treatment, and control program.”

Consider the balance between broad versus specific direction in the WAC.

Initial Feedback: WAC 246-170-031 – Local health department responsibilities

Update reference to American Thoracic Society/CDC individualized treatment planning.
Consider revising for specificity and clarity.
Initial Feedback: WAC 246-170-035 – Tuberculin skin testing and medication administration training

SMEs shared that skin tests are outdated and do not represent current best practice.

However, the authorizing statute (RCW 70.28.032) specifically requires TB skin testing.

The Legislature would need to pass a law amending the authorizing statute for this section of the WAC to address testing beyond TB skin tests.

Initial Feedback:

No specific changes were recommended for:

• WAC 246-170-051 – Procedures for involuntary testing, treatment, and detention.
• WAC 246-170-055 – Due process proceedings.
• WAC 246-170-061 – Initiation of testing or treatment.
• WAC 246-170-065 – Persons already detained, confined, or committed.
Next Steps

Board and DOH rules staff will coordinate with the TB Control Program to determine a timeline for rulemaking.

To stay informed email: Caitlin.Lang@sboh.wa.gov
Subject: Subscribe to TB interested parties list

Questions or Feedback?
THANK YOU

To request this document in an alternate format, please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102, or by email at kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov. TTY users can dial 711.

sboh.wa.gov  Facebook/WASBOH  Twitter/WASBOH