



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION
POLICY STATEMENT**

Title of Policy Statement: Simulation Use and Clinical Training for Medical Assistants-Certified | Policy Number: PS22-01

Issuing Entity: Department of Health, Medical Assistant Program

Subject Matter: Providing guidance and options for completion of clinical hours for the medical assistant-certified credential training programs.

Effective Date: October 28, 2022

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

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Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

Title:	Simulation Use and Clinical Training for Medical Assistants-Certified	Number: PS22-01
References:	Chapter 246-827 WAC, RCW 18.360.030, 18.360.070, and 18.360.040.	
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Approved By:	Sasha de Leon, Assistant Secretary	

It is the Department of Health’s (department) position that medical assistants-certified may use simulation to meet required clinic hours, in accordance with applicable accreditation standards and guidance.

Medical Assistants-Certified

Under [WAC 246-827-0200 \(1\)](#), the department provides several options for completing medical assistant-certified training, all of which require completion of 160 clinic hours:

- a) Completing a medical assistant training program accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), both of which require completion of 160 clock hours of practicum or clinical externship experience; or
- b) Completing a postsecondary school or college accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, which requires completion of 160 clinical hours; or
- c) A registered apprenticeship program administered by a department of the state of Washington that has substantially equivalent to the standards of this state; or
- d) Completing a minimum of 720 clock hours of training in medical assisting skills, including a clinical externship of no less than 160 hours.

Because the department does not prohibit simulation counting toward clinical hours, programs may use simulation to meet required clinical hours. Postsecondary and college programs will rely on applicable accreditation standards and guidance. Postsecondary and college medical assistant-certified training programs will rely on applicable accreditation standards and guidance of [ABHES](#) or [CAAHEP](#).

In summary, it is the department's position that medical assistants-certified may use simulation to meet required clinical hours in accordance with applicable accreditation standards and guidance.