



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

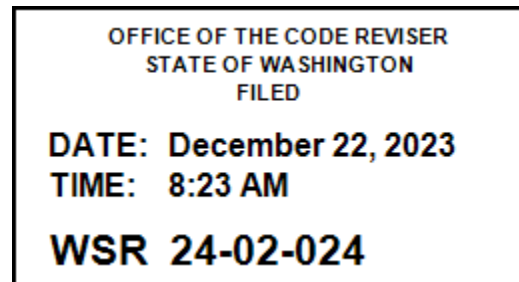
Title of Interpretive Statement: Health Equity Continuing Education for Midwives.
Interpretive Statement | HSQA OHP MW01

Issuing Entity: Washington State Department of Health, Midwifery Program

Subject Matter: Health equity continuing education (CE) requirements for licensed Midwives under chapter 246-834 WAC. Training requirements in WAC 246-12-800 through WAC 246-12-830 will apply to a Midwife licensee starting January 1, 2024.

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

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Department of Health
Office of Community Health Systems

Interpretive Statement

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|------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Title:</i> | Health Equity Continuing Education for Midwives | <i>Number:</i> HSQA OHP MW01 |
| <i>References:</i> | RCW 43.70.613, WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830, Chapter 246-834 WAC | |
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| <i>Effective Date:</i> | January 1, 2024 | |
| <i>Supercedes:</i> | N/A | |
| <i>Approved By:</i> | Christie Spice, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy | |

It is the Department of Health’s (department) position that health equity continuing education (CE) requirements for Midwives licensed under chapter [246-834 WAC](#), include training requirements in WAC 246-12-800 through WAC 246-12-830 and apply to a Midwife licensee starting January 1, 2024.

[RCW 43.70.613](#) directs the rule-making authority for each health profession licensed under [Title 18 RCW](#) subject to CE, to adopt rules requiring health equity CE training at least once every four years. The statute also directed the department to establish model rules that create minimum standards for health equity CE training programs. The department adopted model rules on November 23, 2022 under [WSR 22-23-167](#), creating four new sections in chapter [246-12 WAC](#):

- [WAC 246-12-800](#) Purpose
- [WAC 246-12-810](#) Definitions
- [WAC 246-12-820](#) Health equity CE training minimum hours. This section requires health care professionals, defined under [WAC 246-12-810](#), complete a minimum of two hours of health equity CE training every four years.
- [WAC 246-12-830](#) Health equity CE training content. This section describes the content that must be included in a health equity education program.

The department is in the process of revising the midwifery rules, chapter [246-834 WAC](#), including [WAC 246-834-355](#) Continuing education, which includes implementing RCW 43.70.613 to establish specific health equity CE requirements for midwives. Pending the adoption of permanent rules, the department will implement the statute by requiring Midwife licensees to meet the minimum health equity CE requirements of two hours every four years, beginning January 1, 2024.

In conclusion, it is the department’s position that beginning January 1, 2024, a licensed Midwife must complete two hours of health equity CE every four years, consistent with the requirements of RCW 43.70.613 and WAC 246-12-800 through WAC 246-12-830.

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