



Washington State Department of

Health

Health Systems Quality Assurance

PO Box 47877

Olympia, WA 98504-7877

Who Can Prescribe and Administer Rx in Washington State?

| Profession | Restriction | Out-of-State Rx Accepted | RCW/WAC | Comments |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) | None | Yes (including controlled substances – effective June 2012) | RCW 18.79.250 RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) WAC 246-840 - 400 thru 420 | Drugs must be within scope of practice. Note: See RCW 18.79.400 and WAC 246-840-460 thru 493 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 (beginning July 28, 2013 pharmacies can accept Rx written by out of state Physician Assistants- See Chapter 12, Laws of 2013 – SSB5524) | Chapter 18.57A RCW 246-854-030 Chapter 18.57 RCW 69.41.030 | May prescribe and dispense a 48-hour supply. |
| Certified Physician Assistants (PA-C) | As approved by the Medical Commission | Yes (beginning July 28, 2013 pharmacies can accept Rx written by out of state Physician Assistants- See Chapter 12, Laws of 2013 – SSB5524) | Chapter 18.71A RCW 246-918-035 RCW 69.41.030 | May dispense medications from office supplies. |
| Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) | Legend & Schedule II-IV for anesthesia per facility protocols. | No | RCW 18.79.240(r) RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) | |
| Dentist (DMD or DDS) | None. | Yes | Chapter 18.32 RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) | WAC 246-817-360 Dental-related conditions |
| Naturopath (Naturopathic Doctor or ND) | Controlled substance prescription are limited to testosterone and codeine-containing substances in Schedules III-V. | No | Chapter 18.36A RCW WAC 246-836-210 | |

| Profession | Restriction | Out-of-State Rx Accepted | RCW/WAC | Comments |
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| 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 | Chapter 18.53 RCW WAC 246-851-580 WAC 246-851-590 | Practitioners must meet certification requirements to receive prescriptive authority. Prescriptions must be within scope of practice. |
| Osteopathic Physicians (DO) | None | Yes | Chapter 18.57 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) | |
| 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 | RCW 18.64.011(11) WAC 246-863-100 | May prescribe legend drugs, including controlled substances and vaccines with a collaborative agreement. |
| Physician Assistants (PA) | As approved by the Medical Commission | Yes (beginning July 28, 2013 pharmacies can accept Rx written by out of state Physician Assistants- See Chapter 12, Laws of 2013 – SSB5524) | Chapter 18.71A RCW RCW 69.41.030 WAC 246-918-030 | May dispense medications from office supplies. |
| Physicians (MD) | None | Yes | Chapter 18.71 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) | |
| Podiatric Physician (DPM) | None | Yes | Chapter 18.22 RCW RCW 69.41.030 RCW 69.50.101(w) | Podiatry practice only. |
| Veterinarian (DVM) | For animal treatment only. | Yes | Chapter 18.92 RCW WAC 246-933-110 and 340 RCW 18.92.012 RCW 18.92.013 | DVM may dispense limited amount of prescriptions prescribed by other DVM's. |

General Prescribing Limitations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May not prescribe controlled substances for self, but is permitted for family members. 2. Prescriptions written by MD, DO, DDS, DPM, DMD, DVM, ARNP, and "Physician Assistants" from out-of-state may be dispensed. It is not permitted for other out-of-state prescribers. RCW 69.41.030 and RCW 69.50.101(w)(3). 3. Prescriptions written by MD, DO, DDS, DPM, DMD, DVM, and "Physician Assistants" from British Columbia may be dispensed; except controlled substances because they are not DEA registrants. 4. Prescriptions must be for a legitimate medical purpose. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. There must be a valid "doctor-patient" relationship. 6. Drugs must be within scope of practice. 7. Prescriptions written in Washington for deliver to the pharmacy must be on Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission approved tamper-resistant prescription paper. (RCW18.64.500) 8. Prescriptions must have two signature lines at opposite ends on the bottom of the form. "DISPENSE AS WRITTEN" on the right and "SUBSTITUTION PERMITTED" on the left. |
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*Beginning July 28, 2013 pharmacies can accept Rx written by out of state Physician Assistants- See [Chapter 12, Laws of 2013](#) –SSB5524

Professions That May Administer Drugs Ordered by Authorized Prescribers

| Profession | Authorization |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists Chapter 18.84 RCW | Administer diagnostic and therapeutic agents during cardiac or vascular catheterization procedures under the personal supervision of a physician. |
| Dental Assistants, Registered RCW 18.260.040 | |
| Dental Hygienists Chapter 18.29 RCW | Local anesthetics, topical fluoride, and antimicrobials for dental patients only. |
| Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) RCW 18.73.081 | 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. |
| Health Care Assistant chapter 18.135 RCW , Chapter 246-826 WAC Categories A through G - FAQs | Limited authority to administer certain drugs as determined by rule and as prescribed by a supervising health care practitioner who is physically present. Only category/class C and E Health Care Assistants may administer approved oral drugs. |
| Intermediate Life Support Technician (ILS) RCW 18.71.205 | 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 RCW 18.50.115 WAC 246-834-250 | Purchase and administer certain drugs. May also administer drugs that have been prescribed by a physician. |
| Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Chapter 18.79 RCW & WAC 246-840 | Administer prescribed drugs within, scope of practice, under the general direction of an ARNP, MD, DO, DPM, DDS, PA or ND. |
| Nursing Assistant (CNA or NA) Chapter 18.88A RCW | May administer in community-based care settings or in-home care settings under nurse delegation. |

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

| Profession | Authorization |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Occupational Therapist RCW 18.59.040 , Chapter 246-847 WAC | May purchase, store, and administer certain topical drugs as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner |
| Paramedic RCW 18.71.205 | 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 18.64 RCW | Administer prescribed drugs. |
| Physical Therapists (PT) Chapter 18.74 RCW | 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 Chapter 18.84 RCW | Administer diagnostic and therapeutic agents under the direct supervision of a physician. |
| Radiologist Assistant Chapter 18.84 RCW | Administer imaging and non-imaging agents parenterally, administer oral medications; level of supervision specified in regulation WAC 246-926-300 . |
| Registered Nurse (RN) chapter 18.79 RCW & WAC 246-840 | 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 18.89 RCW | Administer prescribed drugs for the practice of respiratory care as defined by statute. |
| School Personnel RCW 28A.210.260 thru 280 | Superintendent of Public Instruction - Health Services - http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices |
| Veterinary Technicians RCW 18.92.013 & WAC 246-935-410 thru 440 | 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 | Chapter 18.06 RCW |
| Athletic Trainers, Licensed | Chapter 18.250 RCW |
| Chiropractors & Chiropractic X-Ray Technicians | Chapter 18.25 RCW |
| Chemical Dependency Professionals & Chemical Dependency Professional Trainees | Chapter 18.205 RCW |
| Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist & Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate | Chapter 18.225 RCW |
| Counselors, Licensed Mental Health Counselors & Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate | Chapter 18.225 RCW |
| Counselors, Certified Counselors, Certified Adviser, Agency Affiliated Counselors, and Hypnotherapists | Chapter 18.19 RCW |
| Counselors, Licensed Social Workers & Licensed Social Work Associate Advanced & Licensed Social Work Associate Independent Clinical | Chapter 18.225 RCW |

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

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