

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CES)

Medical Aid Rules

WAC 296-20-12501 Physician assistant billing procedure

The date of adoption to repeal this rule: January 21, 2025

The effective date for this rule: March 1, 2025

I. Purpose of rulemaking:

This rulemaking repeals WAC 296-20-12501 for the purpose of removing the pay differential for physician assistants (PAs). Other provisions of the WAC will appear in the Medical Aid Rules as payment policy details.

L&I solicited stakeholder comments during the rulemaking process.

2. Differences between the rule as adopted and the proposed rule:

There were no differences between the rule as adopted and the proposed rule.

3. Comments on proposed rule:

The public comment period for this rulemaking was October 23, 2024, through close of business December 4, 2024.

The public audio/visual (Zoom) hearing was held on December 4, 2024.

One person testified on the proposed rule changes during the public hearing. One individual from the public attended the public hearing but didn't testify, take a position, or submit comments.

One commenter spoke in favor of the change, stating that it was welcome because it represented an acknowledgement of the skill, experience, and expertise of the PAs who work on behalf of injured workers.

L&I also received a written comment in favor of the WAC repeal. The letter expressed a similar sentiment to the comment at the public hearing, specifically that this was a welcome change and that it would benefit both PAs and workers.