



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

## CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: July 15, 2021

TIME: 1:01 PM

WSR 21-15-057

Agency: Health Care Authority

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR \_\_\_\_\_

Continuance of WSR \_\_\_\_\_

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 21-11-029 ; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR \_\_\_\_\_; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

Proposal is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) WAC 182-526-0195, Prehearing conferences

### Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
August 24, 2021	10:00 AM	The Health Care Authority (HCA) remains closed in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. Until further notice, HCA continues to hold public hearings virtually without a physical meeting place. This promotes social distancing and the safety of Washington State residents.	To attend the virtual public hearing, you must register in advance:  <a href="https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BNCWCwOFQSOhcaAMJzTrTw">https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BNCWCwOFQSOhcaAMJzTrTw</a>  After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the public hearing.

Date of intended adoption: Not sooner than August 25, 2021 (Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

### Submit written comments to:

Name: HCA Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716

Email: [arc@hca.wa.gov](mailto:arc@hca.wa.gov)

Fax: (360) 586-9727

Other:

By (date) August 24, 2021

### Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Amber Lougheed

Phone: (360) 725-1349

Fax: (360) 586-9727

TTY: Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS): 711

Email: [amber.lougheed@hca.wa.gov](mailto:amber.lougheed@hca.wa.gov)

Other:

By (date) August 13, 2021

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:** The agency is amending WAC 182-526-0195 to change subsection (4) to specify that the administrative law judge has discretion to grant or deny an agency or managed care organization request for a prehearing conference.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** See purpose

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160

**Statute being implemented:** RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

Federal Law?  Yes  No

Federal Court Decision?  Yes  No

State Court Decision?  Yes  No

If yes, CITATION:

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:** N/A

**Name of proponent:** (person or organization) Health Care Authority

Private

Public

Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Brian Jensen	PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716	360-725-0815
Implementation:	Kerry Breen	PO Box 42700, Olympia, WA 98504-2700	360-725-9970
Enforcement:	Kerry Breen	PO Box 42700, Olympia, WA 98504-2700	360-725-9970

**Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135?**

Yes  No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

**Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?**

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

No: Please explain: RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to Health Care Authority rules unless requested by the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee or applied voluntarily.

**Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:**

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)<br>(Internal government operations) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)<br>(Dictated by statute)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)<br>(Incorporation by reference)     | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)<br>(Set or adjust fees)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)<br>(Correct or clarify language)    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)<br>((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary:

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES**

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

- No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated.
- Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

**Date:** July 15, 2021

**Name:** Wendy Barcus

**Title:** HCA Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**



**WAC 182-526-0195 Prehearing conferences.** (1) Unlike a prehearing meeting, a prehearing conference is a formal proceeding conducted on the record by an administrative law judge (ALJ) to address issues and prepare for a hearing.

(a) The ALJ must make an audio record of the prehearing conference.

(b) An ALJ may conduct the prehearing conference in person, by telephone, or in any other manner acceptable to the parties.

(2) All parties must attend the prehearing conference. If the party who requested the hearing does not attend the prehearing conference, the ALJ may enter an order of default and an order dismissing the hearing.

(3) The ALJ may require a prehearing conference. Any party may request a prehearing conference.

(4) The ALJ must grant the appellant's, and may grant the managed care organization's or the agency representative's, first request for a prehearing conference if it is filed with the office of administrative hearings (OAH) at least seven business days before the scheduled hearing date.

(5) When the ALJ grants a party's request for a prehearing conference, the ALJ must continue the previously scheduled hearing when necessary to comply with notice requirements in this section.

(6) The ALJ may grant additional requests for prehearing conferences.

(7) The office of administrative hearings (OAH) must schedule prehearing conferences for all cases which concern:

(a) Provider and vendor overpayment hearings.

(b) Estate recovery and predeath liens.

(c) Notice of violation disputes under chapter 182-51 WAC.

(d) Notice of violation disputes under chapter 182-70 WAC.

(8) During a prehearing conference the parties and the ALJ may:

(a) Simplify or clarify the issues to be decided during the hearing;

(b) Agree to the date, time, and place of the hearing;

(c) Identify any accommodation or safety issues;

(d) Agree to postpone the hearing;

(e) Allow the parties to make changes in their own documents, including the notice or the hearing request;

(f) Agree to facts and documents to be entered during the hearing;

(g) Set a deadline to exchange names and phone numbers of witnesses and documents before the hearing;

(h) Schedule additional prehearing conferences;

(i) Resolve the dispute;

(j) Consider granting a stay if authorized by law or program rule; or

(k) Rule on any procedural issues and substantive motions raised by any party.

(9) After the prehearing conference, the ALJ must enter a written order describing:

(a) The actions taken at the prehearing conference;

(b) Any changes to the documents;

(c) A statement of the issue or issues identified for the hearing;

(d) Any agreements reached; and

(e) Any ruling of the ALJ.

(10) OAH must serve the prehearing order on the parties at least fourteen calendar days before the scheduled hearing.

(11) A party may object to the prehearing order by notifying OAH in writing within ten calendar days after the mailing date of the order. The ALJ must issue a ruling on the objection within five days from the date a party files an objection.

(12) If no objection is made to the prehearing order, the order determines how the hearing is conducted, including whether the hearing will be in person or held by telephone conference or other means, unless the ALJ changes the order for good cause.

(13) The ALJ may take further appropriate actions to address other concerns raised by the parties.