

**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**PRENATAL TESTS - CONGENITAL AND HERITABLE DISORDERS**  
Updating the Prenatal Genetic Screening Rule Summary and Timeline  
November 2020

**Introduction**

The State Board of Health (Board) is considering updating [chapter 246-680 WAC Prenatal Tests - Congenital and Heritable Disorders](#), to bring Washington’s rules into alignment with national standards of care and current best practices, as well as improving the clarity and usability of the rule.

**Purpose**

The current rule outlines screening and diagnostic tests that are considered to be medically necessary and are required to be included in benefits packages provided by insurers, health care service contractors, and health maintenance organizations. Prenatal screening and diagnostic testing can have a significant impact on pregnancies at risk for a genetic condition by enabling early diagnosis, providing an opportunity for appropriate health care, and empowering women and couples to make informed pregnancy related health decisions. Since the last rule update, national organizations such as the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Medical Genetics have put forward updated recommendations for prenatal screening and diagnostic testing.

**Next Steps**

The Board will work closely with the Department through the proposed rule change. Staff will send updates to the Board’s prenatal screening interested parties list and post updates on the Board’s website to outline how stakeholders can provide feedback, submit written comments, or provide testimony. Following the completion of a draft, the Board used a broader informal review and comment process to gather further input prior to the formal proposal of rules and public hearing. The Board will then receive a briefing on the proposal, comments, and next steps to inform the filing of the proposed rule.

**Contact Information**

For more information about this rule, or to be added to our email distribution list to receive rule updates and opportunities for public comment, please email [Samantha Pskowski](#), Policy Advisor, or call 360-789-2358

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**Washington State Board of Health  
Updating the Prenatal Genetic Screening**

| <b>ESTIMATED RULEMAKING TIMELINE</b>             |                                    |                        |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Rule Activity</b>                             | <b>Anticipated Completion Date</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
| File CR- 101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry   | Fall 2018                          | November 2018          |
| Rulemaking plan                                  | Fall 2018                          | December 2018          |
| Informal public comments                         | May 2019                           | June 2019              |
| Revise draft, address comments                   | June 2019                          | July 2019              |
| Complete rule analysis                           | November 2020                      | November 2020          |
| Briefing to the Washington State Board of Health | November 2020                      | November 2020          |
| File CR- 102, Proposed Rule                      | December 2020                      |                        |
| Public comment                                   | Dec. 2020 - Jan. 2021              |                        |
| Washington State Board of Health Public Hearing  | January 2021                       |                        |
| Summary of rulemaking, responses to comments     | January 2021                       |                        |
| Rules become effective                           | April 2021                         |                        |

To request this document in an alternate format, or another language please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at [kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov) TTY users can dial 711.

