


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NURSING CARE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
PROCEDURE**

Title:	Cease Practice Requirements	Number:	W45.01
Reference:	RCW 18.130.160 RCW 18.130.175 WAC 246-840-750 through 246-840-780 Procedures W06; W09; W10; W11; W17; W18; W19.		
Contact:	Paula R. Meyer, MSN, RN, FRE Executive Director Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission		
Effective Date:	March 8, 2019	Date Reviewed:	March 2019
Supersedes:	W12.01		
Approved:	 Tracy Rude, LPN Chair Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission		

PURPOSE:

The primary mission of Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) is to protect public health and safety. When there is reasonable concern about the ability to practice safely, WHPS requires the nurse to cease practice.

WHPS does not have authority to take action on a nurse's license. WHPS requires cessation of practice under certain circumstances as a public safety measure. The nurse and employer understand this as a contractual requirement.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Cease Practice Requirements
 - A. WHPS will require nurses to cease practice and will notify the Work Site Monitor (WSM) in these circumstances, but not limited to:
 1. Positive drug screen without a valid prescription.
 2. Substituted or altered drug test sample.
 3. Report of impaired practice.
 4. Use of prescribed short-term narcotic analgesics.
 5. Evidence of drug seeking behavior.
 6. Significant contract non-compliance in certain circumstances.
 7. Self-report of unauthorized substance use.
 8. Practicing in an unapproved capacity.

9. Report of medication diversion.

II. Required Evaluations

- A. WHPS will refer nurses removed from practice for a substance use evaluation and may require the nurse to re-enter treatment before returning to practice. WHPS may require additional specialty evaluations (e.g., psychiatry, pain management).
- B. WHPS and the evaluator or treatment provider must approve the nurse's return to practice. Any unauthorized practice will result in referral to Substance Use and Abuse Team and possible discharge from the program.