


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF NURSING
PROCEDURE**

Title:	Substance Use Evaluation and Treatment Services	Number: W34.03
Reference:	RCW 18.130.160; RCW 18.130.175 WAC 246-840-750 through 246-840-780; NCQAC Procedure W04.	
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Approved:		
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PURPOSE:

Describe the process, personnel, and actions associated with substance use disorder (SUD) evaluations used by the Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) program.

PROCEDURE:

I. SUD evaluation

- A. WHPS staff will provide the nurse with the Department of Health Behavioral Health Agency Directory, ensuring the nurse has a role in their choice of SUD evaluation services.
- B. WHPS staff will discuss the nurse's financial status and may recommend the nurse apply for funds through the stipend program. See Procedure W50 *Stigma/Stipend Program*.

- C. The nurse must complete Release of Information authorization(s) with both WHPS and the evaluating service provider.
- D. WHPS reserves the right to require higher-level evaluations, (e.g., addictions specialist, mental health evaluations, and pain management).
- E. WHPS accepts evaluations from the Department of Health Behavioral Services (BH) as described in Section II of this procedure. WHPS will make appropriate exceptions for nurses residing in another state.

Note: BH certified services are found in the Directory of Certified Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Problem and Pathological Gambling Services.

- F. Evaluations should adhere to the format contained in this procedure. Adherence to the evaluation format provides thorough, consistent evaluations and recommendations for treatment.
- G. If the nurse completed an acceptable evaluation prior to contacting WHPS, the nurse may request that the SUD evaluator send a copy of the evaluation and treatment recommendations to WHPS. Acceptable evaluations must have occurred within the previous 90 days and meet all WHPS requirements.
- H. WHPS staff will notify the WHPS Assistant Director of any concerns involving the quality of evaluation services.

II. Evaluator requirements

- A. Evaluations must be conducted by a:
 - 1. Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP). WHPS will not accept evaluations by a Substance Use Disorder Professional Trainee (SUPDT).
 - 2. M.D. or D.O. Addiction Specialist.
 - 3. WHPS-approved licensed evaluator with expertise in substance use disorders, including a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, mental health counselor, or advanced registered nurse practitioner. WHPS may require evaluators in these categories to provide a copy of their curriculum vitae.

III. Intake evaluation requirements

- A. The evaluator shall:
 - 1. Complete a bio-psychosocial history.
 - 2. Use at least two chemical dependency screening tools, i.e., SASSI, MAST, CAGE, and DAST). The SASSI is preferred but not required.
 - 3. Provide written verification of a review of the nurse's license history using the

- Department of Health's website Provider Credential Search at www.doh.wa.gov.
4. Review driving abstract, provided by the nurse at the time of the evaluation.
 5. Review criminal history report, provided by the nurse at the time of the evaluation.
 6. Collect an observed, baseline urine drug screen, including EtG. WHPS may require additional testing.

B. Evaluation reports must include at a minimum:

1. Complete bio/psychosocial history of nurse.
2. Current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5) diagnosis and justification.
3. Six dimensions of ASAM criteria and level of care treatment recommendations per current American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Patient Placement Criteria; other recommendations such as mental health evaluations and pain management evaluations.
4. Results of the urine drug testing.
5. Professional opinion regarding safety to practice.
6. List of collateral information.
7. Any additional pertinent information.

- C. If the nurse does not fully and clearly disclose all circumstances relevant to the purpose of the evaluation and/or provides contradictory statements to WHPS or the evaluator, WHPS will void the evaluation.

IV. Second evaluation

- A. If WHPS or the nurse disagrees with the evaluation or if the evaluation does not reflect the seriousness of events, either may request a second evaluation. The following conditions apply:
1. The secondary SUD evaluator must conduct the evaluation in accordance with this procedure and timelines established by WHPS.
 2. The nurse must authorize the release of information between each evaluation service (allowing services to communicate with each other regarding all aspects of their evaluations) and WHPS.
 3. The WHPS Medical Director will review all second evaluations.
- B. If there is a disagreement between the evaluations, WHPS will make the final monitoring and treatment decision based on all available information.

V. Treatment

- A. Nurses must comply with all treatment recommendations contained in the evaluation report.
- B. The WHPS case manager will contact the treatment service provider to introduce themselves and ensure the nurse enters into the appropriate level of

treatment.

- C. Treatment services staff will submit reports to WHPS monthly. The reports will include safety to practice concerns and any recommendations for additional SUD evaluation or assessment for pain management, mental health, or other issues.