


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

<b>Title:</b>	Cease Practice Requirements	<b>Number:</b>	W45.02
<b>Reference:</b>	<a href="#">RCW 18.130.160</a> - Finding of unprofessional conduct—Orders—Sanctions—Stay—Costs—Stipulations. <a href="#">RCW 18.130.175</a> - Physician health and voluntary substance use disorder monitoring programs ( <i>as amended by 2023 c 425</i> ). <a href="#">RCW 18.79.440</a> - Public posting of enforcement actions restricted—Substance use disorder monitoring stipend program. <a href="#">WAC 246-840-750</a> - Philosophy governing voluntary substance use monitoring programs. <a href="#">WAC 246-840-760</a> - Definitions of terms used in WAC <a href="#">246-840-750</a> through <a href="#">246-840-790</a> . <a href="#">WAC 246-840-770</a> - Approval of substance use monitoring programs <a href="#">WAC 246-840-780</a> - Conditions for participants entering the approved substance use monitoring program. <a href="#">WAC 246-840-790</a> - Substance use disorder monitoring stipend program Procedures W06; W09; W10; W11; W17; W18; W19.		
<b>Contact:</b>	Catherine Woodard Director, Discipline and Washington Health Professional Services Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON)		
<b>Effective Date:</b>	November 8, 2024	<b>Date for Review:</b>	November 8, 2026
<b>Supersedes:</b>	W45.01 – November 4, 2024 W12.01 – January 8, 2016		
<b>Approved:</b>	 Dawn Morrell, BSN, RN Chair Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON)		

**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 because of substance use disorder or mental health, 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 substance use non-compliance for an substance use disorder evaluation. WHPS also requires the nurse to follow all treatment recommendations before to 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 Disorder Referral Panel (SUDRP) and possible discharge from the program.