

WSSA Advocacy Update

June 14, 2019

This is our second installment of our legislative and advocacy update. While the legislative session has ended for 2019, activities in Olympia are ongoing.

- The Office of the Insurance Commissioner is seeking stakeholder feedback on the balance billing law for clarification and development and the rulemaking process. While this bill is one of the most physician-friendly balance billing laws in the country, it still imposes challenges for the physician community. The WSSA will remain active on this topic as rulemaking progresses.
- The Washington Medical Commission filed a proposed rulemaking (WSR 19-08-090) to raise physicians' renewal fees 54 percent (from \$657 to \$1,012) and physician assistants' renewal fees 96 percent (from \$202 to \$396). WSSA continues to actively oppose the adoption of this proposed rule.
- The Washington Medical Commission is also undertaking an allopathic rules re-write. This is in the early stages and will update the entire WMC section of the code to modernize the rules to align with current practice. The updates will be technical and policy-based and are likely to include anesthesia. This could become a big issue for anesthesiologists and we must remain engaged.
- House Bill 1427 was passed in 2017 for medical providers to use data from the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), allowing for more options for checking prescribing data for patients. Rulemaking will follow. See the [DOH webpage](#) for more information on the program.
- There is anticipated rulemaking on scope of practice for pharmacists, acupuncturists, and naturopaths. WSSA will remain vigilant in supporting the best rules for patients and anesthesiologists.

Thank you for your support. Please stay for more information and calls to action in our advocacy efforts. Contact office@wa-anesthesiology.org to get involved and visit <https://wassa.memberclicks.net/donate-to-the-papac> to contribute to the PAPAC.