



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

August 17, 2020

AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-030
EMERGENCY RULES (CR-103E) AMENDING WAC 388-101-3130
CERTIFICATION EVALUATIONS

Dear Certified Community Residential Services and Supports Provider:

The Department of Social and Health Services (department) filed an emergency rule (WSR 20-17-012) effective 8/6/20 related to certification evaluations. The rule making is necessary to respond to the significant threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations, especially those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate care settings, such as Certified Community Residential Services and Supports settings.

Governor Inslee's proclamation 20-18 and subsequent extensions identified that the pandemic has resulted in disruptions to long-term care systems, including the ability to safely conduct inspections. The governor's proclamation included the suspension of licensing inspections for all long-term care settings with the exception of CCRSS settings.

Under WAC 388-101-3130, the department may conduct an on-site certification evaluation for each service provider at any time, but at least once every two years. Residential Care Services has adopted an emergency rule to lengthen the amount of time to complete certification evaluations for consistency and safety across all programs regulated by the department. The amendment will allow the department additional time to complete certification evaluations when it is safe and practical to do so.

The emergency rule expires December 4, 2020.

Thank you for your continued commitment to client health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Antonietta Lettieri-Parkin, Policy Program Manager, at (509) 363-3549 or antonietta.lettieri-parkin@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"