



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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April 24, 2020

ARNPs United of Washington State  
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Washington State Dental Association  
Washington State Hospital Association  
Washington State Medical Association  
Washington State Medical Group Management Association  
Washington State Podiatric Medical Association

Dear Association Partners:

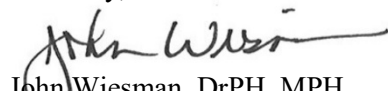
Thank you for reaching out regarding the requirement in SB 5380 for health care facilities, entities, offices, and provider groups of ten or more that use federally certified electronic health records systems (EHRs) to demonstrate that their systems are integrated with the state Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) by January 1, 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an unprecedented toll on Washington's health care system over the last several months. Health care providers have been consumed with planning for and responding to the surge of patients needing critical care due to COVID-19. Although we are seeing hopeful signs that the spread of COVID-19 has slowed, the pandemic is not over. I fully expect this public health emergency will continue to require the full focus of health care entities in Washington for some time to come.

In light of this, I am exercising my authority under RCW 70.225.090(2)(b) to grant a nine month waiver from complying with the requirements of RCW 70.225.090(2)(a) to all facilities, entities, offices, and provider groups that are subject to the requirements due to the burdens placed on our state's health care entities under the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington State. This waiver will expire on September 30, 2021. At that time, all health care facilities, entities, offices, and provider groups subject to the EHR/PMP integration requirement must have integrated EHRs in compliance with RCW 70.225.090(2)(a) or another waiver issued by the Department of Health.

I deeply appreciate the way in which health care providers have come together to respond to COVID-19, as you have to address the on-going epidemic of opioid overdose. I look forward to our continued partnership in these issues, and all others that affect the health of people living in Washington State.

Sincerely,



John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH  
Secretary of Health

cc: Amber Leaders, Office of the Governor  
Kathy Lofy, MD, Department of Health  
Kristin Peterson, Department of Health  
Martin Pittioni, Department of Health  
Christie Spice, Department of Health