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Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Delivered electronically

Dear Shari,

On behalf of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's (OIC) draft rule R 2022-03 relating to access to health care benefits. As a proponent of HB 1821 during the 2022 legislative session, we support this rulemaking to the extent that it aligns with amended language in RCW 48.43.735 and promotes the appropriate use of telemedicine. **In this letter, we are seeking clarification on WAC 284-170-130(13)(b)(ii)(c) on page 11 of the draft as it is not reflected in RCW:**

(C) A referral includes circumstances in which the provider who has had at least one in person appointment, or, until January 1, 2024, at least one real-time interactive appointment using both audio and video technology, with the covered person participates in the audio-only telemedicine encounter with the provider to whom the covered person has been referred.

This provision is unclear to us and we request that the OIC provide information on the intent and purpose of Subsection C on page 11.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. With any questions, please reach out to WSMA policy analyst Shelby Wiedmann at shelby@wsma.org.

Sincerely,



Jeb Shepard
Director of Policy
Washington State Medical Association