

Department of Social and Health Services
Community Services Division
Social Services Manual

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Category: **Incapacity Determination - Acceptable Medical Evidence**

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Revision Author: Evelyn Acopan

Division: CSD

Mail Stop: 45440

Phone: 360-397-4845

Email: evelyn.acopan@dshs.wa.gov

Summary

Updated page to include clarification regarding ARNP as an acceptable medical source.

Incapacity Determination - Acceptable Medical Evidence

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[WAC 388-447-0005](#) What evidence does the department consider to determine incapacity?

[WAC 388-447-0010](#) What medical evidence do I need to provide?

Clarifying Information- WAC 388-447-0005

1. A diagnosis of a medically determinable impairment must be from an “acceptable medical source” as defined in WAC 388-447-0005. The diagnosis must be supported by objective medical evidence described in WAC 388-447-0010 and be based on an examination within 5 years of the application date.

2. After a diagnosis is established, we can use “supplemental medical evidence” as current evidence.
3. Once we have a diagnosis and current medical evidence, we may include “other evidence” as supporting documentation.

Clarifying Information- WAC 388-447-0010

1. We use symptoms and a diagnosis of a substance use disorder (SUD) when determining incapacity.
 - a. An SUD is classified as a mental disorder and must be contained in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).
 - b. A diagnosis of an SUD must be from an “acceptable medical source” listed in WAC 388-447-0005.
 - i. Once an “acceptable medical source” has established a diagnosis, the Disability Specialist can use “supplemental medical evidence” (e.g. from a substance use disorder professional) and “other evidence” (e.g. public and private agencies, personal observation, etc.) as supporting documentation as needed.
 - c. In addition to a diagnosis of a SUD, a client must meet all requirements under [WAC 388-400-0070](#) (e.g. determined incapacitated via the PEP) to be eligible for the HEN Referral Program.

NOTE: Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) is a type of licensure for registered nurses with advanced degrees (master’s or doctoral). WAC 246-840-302 lists ARNP designations as:

- Nurse practitioner (NP)
- Certified nurse-midwife (CNM)
- Certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)
- Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)

Medical evidence from an ARNP within their scope of practice is considered acceptable.