STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

July 21, 2026

HCLA: ALF #2026-029
CR 103P (Permanent Rule) Amending Chapter 388-78A WAC for Memory Care Certification

Dear Provider/Administrator:

This message is to announce the filing of a CR-103P (Permanent Rule) amending Chapter 388-78A of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) (the department) is amending and adding new sections in Chapter 388-78A WAC to meet the requirements of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5337 (E2SSB 5337), Chapter 187, Laws of 2025 Assisted Living Facilities-Memory Care Services. The legislation created a certification process for licensed assisted living facilities (ALFs) providing memory care services or specialized dementia care services to residents in restricted egress facilities or units.

In April 2026, notification of filing of a CR-102 began the permanent rule adoption process. The department will amend and add new sections as:

- Required by federal or state law or required to maintain federally delegated or authorized programs; and
- Necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

A public hearing was held on June 23, 2026. The department did receive comments on proposed changes, and a concise explanatory statement is available here.

The department filed a CR-103 permanent rules (WSR 26-15-066) on July 15, 2026. The permanent rules will become effective on **August 15, 2026**.

Permanent rules will not appear in Chapter 388-78A WAC online for at least two weeks after the full text of the rule is published in the Washington State Register.

For questions related to the CR-103 for Chapter 388-78A WAC please contact Tamara Tredo, Policy Program Manager, at RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,
Amy Abbott
Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services
DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*