



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
PO Box 47866, Olympia, WA 98504-7866

March 18, 2014

Melvin C. Gitlin, MD, FACPM  
American Board of Pain Medicine  
8735 West Higgins Road, Suite 300  
Chicago, Illinois 60631

Dear Dr. Gitlin:

The Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission is pleased to inform you that it recently voted to accept the American Board of Pain Medicine as an approved entity for credentialing physicians in pain management, which is one element of qualifying as a pain specialist under the Commission's rules on pain management.

As you know, the Commission's rules on Pain Management require a physician prescribing more than 120 milligrams morphine equivalent dose to obtain a consultation with a pain management specialist. Pain management specialists are exempt from the consultation requirement and may provide the consultation for providers who are not exempt.

The Commission wishes to stress that a physician credentialed by the American Board of Pain Medicine must also meet additional elements to qualify as a pain specialist, as set forth in WAC 246-919-863(1)(d):

- have three years of clinical experience in a chronic pain management care setting,
- successfully complete 18 hours of continuing education in pain management in the past two years for physicians or three years for osteopathic physicians, and
- practice in a setting in which at least thirty percent of the physician's practice is the direct provision of pain management care or practice in a multidisciplinary pain clinic.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Brantner, MD  
Chairman, Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission