

**WAC 246-25-050 Exclusive dealing clauses—Policy statement.** (1)

Exclusive dealing clauses in health care provider and facility contracts with certified health plans may enhance the quality of health services, achieve economic efficiencies, or improve the cost-effective use of health services and equipment. Exclusive dealing clauses may also reduce competition among certified health plans, providers, and facilities when the clauses prevent other competitors from entering the relevant market, thereby increasing the probability of the creation of a monopoly in that market.

(2) A contract between a certified health plan and a health care facility or provider may not contain an exclusive dealing clause if the plan holds more than forty percent of the relevant market.

(3) A contract between a certified health plan and a health care facility or provider may contain an exclusive dealing clause if the plan holds twenty percent or less of the relevant market.

(4) A contract between a certified health plan and a health care facility or provider may contain an exclusive dealing clause if the plan holds between twenty and forty percent of the relevant market and the commission has explicitly permitted its use. To obtain such approval, a plan must request an informal opinion as to use of the clause in the particular circumstances or seek approval by written petition pursuant to the procedures set forth in WAC 245-02-110, et seq.

(5) A contract between a health care network and a health care facility or provider may not contain an exclusive dealing clause if the health care network holds more than forty percent of the relevant market.

(6) A contract between a health care network and a health care facility or provider may contain an exclusive dealing clause if the health care network holds twenty percent or less of the relevant market.

(7) A contract between a health care network and a health care facility or provider may contain an exclusive dealing clause if the network holds between twenty and forty percent of the relevant market and the commission has explicitly permitted its use. To obtain such approval, a network must request an informal opinion as to use of the clause in the particular circumstances or seek approval by written petition pursuant to the procedures set forth in WAC 245-02-110, et seq.

(8) The provisions of this section do not apply to contracts between a staff or group model health maintenance organization and its health care facilities or providers.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.72.310. WSR 99-04-049, recodified as § 246-25-050, filed 1/28/99, effective 1/28/99; WSR 95-04-115, § 245-02-050, filed 2/1/95, effective 10/1/95.]