

WAC 246-933-345 Client communication regarding evaluation and treatment. (1) The veterinarian must communicate when appropriate to the client the following:

- (a) Proposed diagnostic tests;
- (b) Differential diagnoses;
- (c) Definitive diagnoses;
- (d) Proposed treatments;
- (e) Common side effects or adverse outcomes from proposed diagnostic testing or treatment;
- (f) Most likely side effects or adverse outcomes from proposed diagnostic testing or treatment based on patient signalment and disease status. Patient signalment may include, but is not limited to, species, breed, age, and sex;
- (g) Estimated cost;
- (h) Prognosis; and
- (i) Alternate diagnostic and treatment options for the patient.

(2) Such communications must be timely and sufficient to enable the client to understand clearly the problem and the choices that must be made, and provide written or verbal consent for a proposed diagnostic and treatment plan. If other staff is involved in the communication process, it is the responsibility of the veterinarian to ensure that such communications are appropriate. All communications must be made prior to rendering treatment, except in cases of emergencies as described in WAC 246-933-050 or when a client cannot be reached for consultation within a reasonable time frame as dictated by the patient's condition.

(3) Client communication required in subsection (1) of this section must be documented in the patient medical record.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.92.030 and chapter 18.92 RCW. WSR 20-15-164, § 246-933-345, filed 7/22/20, effective 8/22/20.]