



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103P (May 2009)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Department of Revenue

Permanent Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose:

WAC 458-20-124 (Rule 124) *Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses* explains the business & occupation (B&O) tax, retail sales tax and use tax applications to sales by restaurants and similar businesses. Rule 124 has been revised to clarify that the exemption from sales, use and B&O taxes only apply to meals provided to restaurant employees for free and that the exemption does not apply to meals provided to other employees that work outside the restaurant.

WAC 458-20-168 (Rule 168) *Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes and similar health care facilities* explains the application of B&O, retail sales, and use taxes to persons operating such businesses. Rule 168 has been revised to remove language explaining RCW 82.04.4485 that allowed hospitals to take a B&O tax credit for the cost of purchasing mechanical lifting devices and other equipment meant to minimize patient handling by health care providers. This exemption expired December 30, 2010 and is now past statute.

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Amended: WAC 458-20-124 Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses.
WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes and similar health care facilities.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 82.32.300 and 82.01.060(2)

Other authority : Chapter 86, Laws of 2015 (SSB 5275)

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 15-17-051 on August 13, 2015.

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting: **An analysis was not prepared.**

Date adopted: October 21, 2015

NAME

Kevin Dixon

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Rules Coordinator

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 21, 2015

TIME: 10:27 AM

WSR 15-21-092

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	Amended		Repealed
Federal rules or standards:	New	Amended		Repealed
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	Amended	1	Repealed

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

	New	Amended		Repealed
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

	New	Amended	2	Repealed
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

	New	Amended		Repealed
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	Amended		Repealed
Pilot rule making:	New	Amended		Repealed
Other alternative rule making:	New	Amended	2	Repealed

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-01-050, filed 12/12/13, effective 1/12/14)

WAC 458-20-124 Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses. (1) **Introduction.** This rule explains how Washington's business and occupation (B&O) tax and retail sales tax (~~applications~~) apply to sales by restaurants and similar businesses. It discusses (~~the~~) sales of meals, beverages, and foods at prices inclusive of the retail sales tax. This rule also explains how discounted and promotional meals are taxed. Caterers and persons who merely manage the operations of a restaurant or similar business should refer to WAC 458-20-119 to determine their tax liability.

(a) **Restaurants, cocktail bars, and taverns.** The term "restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns, and similar businesses" means every place where prepared foods and beverages are sold and served to individuals, generally for consumption on the premises where sold.

(b) **Examples.** This rule contains examples that identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. These examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all facts and circumstances.

(c) **What other rules might apply?** In addition to information available on the department's web site pertaining to prepared food and beverage sales, the following rules may contain (~~additional~~) other relevant information:

- WAC 458-20-107 Requirement to separately state sales tax—Advertised prices including sales tax.
- WAC 458-20-119 Sales by caterers and food service contractors.
- WAC 458-20-131 Gambling activities.
- WAC 458-20-183 Amusement, recreation, and physical fitness services.
- WAC 458-20-187 (~~Coin-operated~~) Tax responsibility of persons owning and/or operating vending machines, amusement devices, and service machines.
- WAC 458-20-189 Sales to and by the state of Washington, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and fire districts.
- WAC 458-20-190 Sales to and by the United States—Doing business on federal reservations—Sales to foreign governments.
- WAC 458-20-243 Litter tax.
- WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients.

(2) **Retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.** Sales (~~to consumers~~) of meals and prepared foods to consumers by restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns, and similar businesses are subject to the retailing tax classification and generally subject to retail sales tax. (~~A~~) Retail sales tax exemptions (~~is~~) are available for the following sales of meals:

(a) Prepared meals sold under a state-administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the Older Americans Act (Public Law 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040(6);

(b) Prepared meals sold to or for senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons by a not-for-profit organization organized under chapter 24.03 or 24.12 RCW;

(c) Prepared meals sold to the federal government. (See WAC 458-20-190.) However, meals sold to federal employees are taxable, even if the federal employee will be reimbursed for the cost of the meals by the federal government;

(d) Effective July 1, 2011, RCW 82.08.9995 (~~exempts meals from retail sales tax when~~) provides a retail sales tax exemption for meals provided without specific charge by a restaurant to its employees (~~by a restaurant~~). Such meals are also (~~are~~) exempt from B&O tax and use tax. (RCW 82.04.750 and 82.12.9995.) If any charge is made for meals to employees, retailing B&O tax and retail sales tax apply.

For the purposes of (d) of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Meal" means one or more items of prepared food or beverages other than alcoholic beverages. For the purposes of (d) of this subsection, "alcoholic beverage" and "prepared food" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.08.0293.

(ii) "Restaurant" means any establishment having special space and accommodation where food and beverages are regularly sold to the public for immediate, but not necessarily on-site, consumption, but excluding grocery stores, mini-markets, and convenience stores. Restaurant includes, but is not limited to, lunch counters, diners, coffee shops, espresso shops or bars, concession stands or counters, delicatessens, and cafeterias. It also includes space and accommodations where food and beverages are sold to the public for immediate consumption that are located within:

- Hotels, motels, lodges, boarding houses, bed and breakfast facilities;

- Hospitals, office buildings, movie theaters; and

- Schools, colleges, or universities, if a separate charge is made for such food or beverages.

Restaurants also include:

- Mobile sales units that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption within a place, the entrance to which is subject to an admission charge; and

- Public and private carriers, such as trains and vessels, that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption if a separate charge is made for such food or beverages.

A restaurant is open to the public for purposes of this subsection if members of the public can be served as guests. "Restaurant" does not include businesses making sales through vending machines or through mobile sales units such as catering trucks or sidewalk vendors of food or beverage items.

(3) **Wholesaling B&O tax.** Persons making sales of prepared meals to persons who will be reselling the meals are subject to the wholesaling B&O tax classification. Sellers must obtain (~~resale certificates for sales made before January 1, 2010, or~~) a copy of the purchaser's reseller permit (~~s for sales made on or after January 1, 2010, from their customers~~) to document the wholesale nature of any sale as provided in ((WAC 458-20-102A (Resale certificates) and)) WAC 458-20-102 ((+))Reseller permits((+)). ~~Even though resale certificates are no longer used after December 31, 2009, they must be kept on file by the seller for five years from the date of last use or December 31, 2014~~)).

(4) **Service B&O tax.** Compensation received from owners of vending machines for allowing the placement of those machines at the restaurant, cocktail bar, tavern, or similar business is subject to the service and other business activities tax. Persons operating games of chance should refer to WAC 458-20-131.

(5) **Exemptions.** Effective October 1, 2013, (~~chapter 13 (ESSB 5882), Laws of 2013,~~) RCW 82.08.210 provides retail sales tax and use

tax exemptions for sales to restaurants of products that impart flavor to food during the cooking process; and

- Are completely or substantially consumed by combustion during the cooking process; or
- That support the food during the cooking process and are comprised entirely of wood.

The exemption includes products such as wood chips, charcoal, charcoal briquettes, grapevines, and cedar grilling planks. The exemptions do not apply to any type of gas fuel. For the purpose of these exemptions, "restaurant" has the same meaning as found in RCW 82.08.9995. These exemptions are scheduled to expire July 1, 2017.

(6) **Deferred sales or use tax.** If the seller fails to collect the appropriate retail sales tax, the purchaser is required to pay the deferred sales or use tax directly to the department.

(a) Retail sales tax or use tax applies to purchases of dishes, kitchen utensils, linens, and items ((which)) that do not become an ingredient of the meal(, are subject to retail sales tax)).

(b) Retail sales tax or use tax applies to purchases of equipment, repairs, appliances, and construction.

(c) ((The)) Retail sales tax or use tax does not apply to purchases of food or beverage products ((which)) that are ingredients of the meals being sold.

(d) Retail sales tax or use tax does not apply to purchases of paper plates, paper cups, paper napkins, toothpicks, or any other articles ((which)) that are furnished to customers, the first actual use of which renders such articles unfit for further use, ((are not subject to retail sales tax)) when purchased by restaurants and similar businesses making actual sales of meals.

(7) **Combination business.** Persons operating a combination of two kinds of food sales, of which one is the sale of prepared food (i.e., an establishment, such as a deli, selling food products ready for consumption and in bulk quantities), should refer to WAC 458-20-244 for taxability information.

(8) **Discounted meals, promotional meals, and meals given away.** Persons who sell meals on a "two for one" or similar basis are not giving away a free meal, but rather are selling two meals at a discounted price. Both the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes ((should be)) are calculated on the reduced price actually received by the seller.

Persons who provide meals free of charge to persons other than their employees are consumers of those meals. Persons operating restaurants or similar businesses are not required to report use tax on food and food ingredients given away, even if the food or food ingredients are part of prepared meals. For example, a restaurant providing meals to the homeless or hot dogs free of charge to a little league team will not incur a retail sales or use tax liability with respect to these items given away. A sale has not occurred, and the food and food ingredients exemption applies. Should the restaurant provide the little league team with soft drinks free of charge, the restaurant will incur a deferred retail sales or use tax liability with respect to those soft drinks. Soft drinks are excluded from the exemption for food and food ingredients. (See WAC 458-20-244.)

(9) **Sales of meals, beverages and food at prices ((including)) that include retail sales tax.** Persons may advertise and/or sell meals, beverages, or any kind of food product at prices including sales tax. Any person electing to advertise and/or make sales in this

manner must clearly indicate this pricing method on the menus and other price information.

(10) **Spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensees.** Restaurants operating under the authority of a license from the liquor control board to sell spirits, beer, and wine by the glass for on-premises consumption generally have both dining and cocktail lounge areas. Customers purchasing beverages or food in lounge areas (~~are generally~~) may not be given sales invoices, sales slips, or dinner checks, nor are they generally provided with menus.

(a) Many spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensees elect to sell beverages or food at prices inclusive of the sales tax in the cocktail lounge area. If this pricing method is used, notification that retail sales tax is included in the price of the beverages or foods must be posted in the lounge area in a manner and location so that customers can see the notice without entering employee work areas. (~~It will be presumed~~) The department presumes that no retail sales tax has been collected or is included in the gross receipts when a notice is not posted and the customer does not receive a sales slip or sales invoice separately stating the retail sales tax.

(b) The election to include retail sales tax in the selling price in one area of a location does not preclude the restaurant operator from selling beverages or food at a price exclusive of sales tax in another. For example, a spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensee may elect to include the retail sales tax in the price charged for beverages in the lounge area, while the price charged in the dining area is exclusive of the sales tax.

(c) Spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensees are not required to post actual drink prices in the cocktail lounge areas. However, if actual prices are posted, the advertising requirements expressed in WAC 458-20-107 must be met.

(11) **Gratuities.** Tips or gratuities representing donations or gifts by customers under circumstances which are clearly voluntary are not part of the selling price and not subject to tax. However, mandatory additions to the price by the seller, whether labeled service charges, tips, gratuities or otherwise (~~must be included in~~) are part of the selling price and are subject to both the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.

(12) **Examples.**

(a) XYZ Restaurant operates both a cocktail bar and a dining area. XYZ has elected to sell drinks and appetizers in the bar at prices including the retail sales tax while selling drinks and meals served in the dining area at prices exclusive of the sales tax. There is a sign posted in the bar area advising customers that all prices include retail sales tax. Customers in the dining area are given sales invoices (~~which~~) that separately state the retail sales tax. As an example, a typical well drink purchased in the bar for \$2.50 inclusive of the sales tax, is sold for \$2.50 plus sales tax in the dining area. The pricing requirements have been satisfied and the drink and food totals are correctly reflected on the customers' dinner checks. XYZ may factor the retail sales tax out of the cocktail bar gross receipts when determining its retailing and retail sales tax liability.

(b) RBS Restaurant operates both a cocktail bar and a dining area. RBS has elected to sell drinks at prices inclusive of retail sales tax for all areas where drinks are served. It has a sign posted to inform customers in the bar area of this fact and a statement is also on the dinner menu indicating that any charges for drinks includes retail sales tax. Dinner checks are given to customers served

in the dining area ((which)) that state the price of the meal exclusive of sales tax, sales tax on the meal, and the drink price including retail sales tax. Because the business has met the sign posting requirement in the bar area and has indicated on the menu that sales tax is included in the price of the drinks, RBS may factor the sales tax out of the gross receipts received from its drink sales when determining its taxable retail sales.

(c) Z Tavern sells all foods and drinks at a price inclusive of the retail sales tax. However, there is no mention of this pricing structure on its menus or reader boards. The gross receipts from Z Tavern's food and drink sales are subject to the retailing and retail sales taxes. Z Tavern has failed to meet the conditions for selling foods and drinks at prices including tax. Z Tavern may not assume that the gross receipts include any sales tax and may not factor the retail sales tax out of the gross receipts.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-18-019, filed 8/25/14, effective 9/25/14)

WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes and similar health care facilities. (1) **Introduction.** This rule explains the application of business and occupation (B&O), retail sales, and use taxes to persons operating:

- Hospitals as defined in RCW 70.41.020;
- Nursing homes as defined in RCW 18.51.010;
- Assisted living facilities as defined in RCW 18.20.020;
- Adult family homes as defined in RCW 70.128.010; and
- Similar health care facilities.

(a) **Examples.** This rule contains examples ((which)) that identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. The examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all of the facts and circumstances.

(b) **What other rules might apply?** The department of revenue (department) has adopted other rules that may apply to the provision of health care. Readers may want to refer to the rules in the following list for additional information:

- (i) WAC 458-20-102((~~τ~~)) Reseller permits((~~+~~)).
- (ii) WAC 458-20-111((~~τ~~)) Advances and reimbursements((~~+~~)).
- (iii) WAC 458-20-150((~~τ~~)) Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and opticians((~~+~~)).
- (iv) WAC 458-20-151((~~τ~~)) Dentists and other health care providers, dental laboratories, and dental technicians((~~+~~)).
- (v) WAC 458-20-169((~~τ~~)) Nonprofit organizations((~~+~~)).
- (vi) WAC 458-20-178((~~τ~~)) Use tax((~~+~~)) and the use of tangible personal property.
- (vii) WAC 458-20-18801((~~τ~~)) Medical substances, devices, and supplies for humans—Drugs prescribed for human use—Medically prescribed oxygen—Prosthetic devices—Mobility enhancing equipment—Durable medical equipment((~~+~~)).
- (viii) WAC 458-20-233((~~τ~~)) Tax liability of medical and hospital service bureaus and associations and similar health care organizations.

(2) **Personal and professional services of hospitals.** For the purpose of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

- **"Hospital"** - The term hospital is as defined in RCW 70.41.020. It includes hospitals that come within the scope of chapter 71.12 RCW, but only if they are also licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

- **"Public hospital" or "nonprofit hospital"** - Public or nonprofit hospitals are hospitals operated by the state or any of its political subdivisions or operated as nonprofit corporations.

(a) **Hospital services to patients.** Gross income earned by hospitals for providing personal or professional services to patients is subject to B&O tax as shown on the table below. RCW 82.04.260.

Report Income From Providing Personal or Professional Services	Time Frame Prior to May 1, 2010	Time Frame May 1, 2010 and After
For profit hospitals	Service and other B&O tax classification	For profit hospitals B&O tax classification
Public and nonprofit hospitals	Public or nonprofit hospitals B&O tax classification	Public or nonprofit hospitals B&O tax classification

Gross income earned for providing nonmedical services, interest received on patient accounts receivable, and amounts earned for providing transcribing services to physicians are subject to service and other activities B&O tax.

(b) **Clinics and departments operated by hospitals.** Gross income earned by medical clinics and departments providing services to patients and operated by a hospital is subject to B&O tax as shown in the table in subsection (2)(a) of this rule, where the operation of a medical clinic or department is covered by the hospital's license. If the clinic or department is not covered by the hospital's license, the gross income earned by a medical clinic or department providing services to patients is subject to B&O tax under the service and other activities B&O tax classification.

(i) **Example 1.** Acme Hospital is a nonprofit hospital that has a medical clinic that is physically located within the hospital. The clinic is open only during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and provides no domiciliary care or overnight facilities to its patients. The medical clinic is covered under Acme Hospital's hospital license. Gross income earned by the medical clinic for providing patient care is subject to the Public and Nonprofit Hospital B&O Tax Classification because the clinic is covered under the hospital license.

(ii) **Example 2.** Mountain Hospital is a for profit hospital with a cancer treatment facility that is located one mile from the hospital campus. The cancer treatment facility provides the type of services normally provided by hospitals to cancer patients but only during regular business hours. The cancer treatment facility is covered under the hospital's license. Gross income earned by the cancer treatment facility is subject to B&O tax as shown in the table in subsection (2)(a) of this rule because the facility is covered under the hospital's license.

(c) **Educational programs and services.** Amounts earned by public or nonprofit hospitals for providing educational programs and services to the general public are subject to B&O tax under the public or nonprofit hospitals classification if the educational programs and services are an integral, interrelated, and essential part of the hospital. Otherwise, such amounts are subject to B&O tax under the service and other activities tax classification. Educational services are considered an integral, interrelated, and essential part of the hospital only if they are unique and incidental to the provision of hospitalization services. Only those educational programs and services offered by a hospital that would be very difficult or impossible to duplicate by a person other than a hospital because of the specialized body of knowledge, facilities, and equipment required are unique and incidental to the provision of hospitalization services. Amounts received from educational programs and services are subject to the service and other activities B&O tax when the educational programs or services could be provided by any physician, clinic, or trained lay person.

(3) **Personal and professional services from other medical clinics, nursing homes, and similar health care facilities.** Gross income earned by medical clinics, nursing homes, and similar health care facilities for providing personal and professional services is subject to service and other activities B&O tax. Physicians performing these services are also subject to service and other activities B&O tax on gross income earned. Services provided are ones not integral, interrelated, and an essential part of a hospital operation.

(4) **Assisted living facilities and domiciliary care.** For the purpose of this rule, "assisted living facilities" and "domiciliary care" have the same meaning as found in RCW 18.20.020. A preferential B&O tax rate is provided by RCW 82.04.2908 to persons operating assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW ((are entitled to a preferential B&O tax rate. See RCW 82.04.2908)). Persons operating licensed assisted living facilities should report their gross income derived from providing room and domiciliary care to residents under the licensed assisted living facilities B&O tax classification. Refer to subsection (9)(h) of this rule for B&O tax deductions and exemptions available to persons operating assisted living facilities.

(5) **Hospitals or other health care facilities operated by the state of Washington.** ((The)) Gross income earned by the state of Washington for operating a hospital or other health care facilities, whether or not owned by the state, is not subject to B&O tax.

(6) **Nonprofit corporations and associations performing research and development.** A separate B&O tax rate applies to nonprofit corporations and nonprofit associations for gross income earned in performing research and development within this state, including medical research. See RCW 82.04.260.

(7) **Sales of tangible personal property.** Retailing B&O tax applies to sales of tangible personal property sold and billed separately from the performance of personal or professional services by hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes, and similar health care facilities. This includes charges for making copies of medical records. ((In addition,)) The seller must collect retail sales tax from the buyer and remit the tax to the department unless the sale is specifically exempt by law.

(a) **Tangible personal property used in providing medical services to patients.** Retailing B&O and retail sales taxes do not apply to charges to a patient for tangible personal property used in providing medical services to the patient, even if separately billed. Tangible personal property used in providing medical services is not considered to have been sold separately from the medical services simply because those items are separately invoiced. These charges, even if separately itemized, are for providing medical services.

For example, when a hospital charges a patient for drugs physically administered by the hospital staff, the charges to the patient are subject to B&O tax under the appropriate tax classification as shown in the table in subsection (2)(a) of this rule based on the hospital making the charge. On the other hand, charges for drugs sold to persons or their caregivers, either for self-administration or administration by a caregiver other than the seller, are subject to retailing B&O tax and retail sales tax unless specifically exempt by law. Readers should refer to WAC 458-20-18801 for detailed information regarding retail sales tax exemptions that apply to sales of prescription drugs and other medical items.

(b) **Sales of meals.** Although the sale of meals is generally considered to be a retail sale, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care facilities that furnish meals to patients or residents as a part of the services provided to those patients or residents are not considered to be making retail sales of meals. Thus amounts earned by hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care facilities for furnishing meals to patients or residents are subject to B&O tax as part of the services provided to those patients or residents. Such amounts are not subject to retail sales tax.

RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293 provide, respectively, retail sales tax and use tax exemptions for prepared meals sold to senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons by a not-for-profit organization organized under chapter 24.03 or 24.12 RCW ((are exempt from retail sales and use taxes. RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293)). The exemptions apply to sales of prepared meals to not-for-profit organizations organized under chapter 24.03 or 24.12 RCW, that provide the meals to senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons as a part of the patient services they render.

Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care facilities may have restaurants, cafeterias, or other dining facilities where meals are sold to doctors, employees, and visitors. These sales of meals are subject to retailing B&O and retail sales taxes. For additional information regarding the sale of meals, including meals furnished to employees, refer to WAC 458-20-124.

(8) **Industry reporting.** This subsection discusses common reporting issues affecting persons operating medical or other health care facilities.

(a) **Adjustments to revenues.** Many hospitals ((will)) provide medical care without charge or where some portion of the charge will be canceled. In other cases, medical care is billed to patients at "standard" rates but is later adjusted to reduce the charges to the rates established by contract with medicare, medicaid, or private insurers. In these situations, the hospital must initially include the total charges as billed to the patient as gross income unless the hospital's records clearly indicate the amount of income to which it will be entitled under its contracts with insurance carriers. Where tax returns are initially filed based on gross charges, an adjustment may be taken on future tax returns after the hospital has adjusted its records to reflect the actual amounts collected. In no event may the hospital reduce the amount of its current gross income by amounts that were not previously reported on its excise tax return. If the tax rate changes from the time the B&O tax was first paid on the gross charges and the time of the adjustment, the hospital must file amended tax returns to report the B&O tax on the transaction as finally completed at the rate in effect when the service was performed.

(b) **What are the tax consequences when a hospital contracts with an independent contractor to provide medical services at the hospital?** When a hospital contracts with an independent contractor (service provider) to provide medical services, such as managing and staffing the hospital's emergency department, the hospital may not deduct the amount paid to the service provider from its gross income. If, however, the patients are alone liable for paying the service provider, and the hospital has no personal liability, either primarily or secondarily, for paying the service provider, other than as agent for the patients, then the hospital may deduct from its gross income the amount it receives and pays to the service provider.

In addition, the service provider is subject to service and other activities B&O tax on the amount earned from the hospital for providing these services for the hospital. If the service provider subcontracts with a third party, such as a physician or nurse, to help provide medical services as an independent contractor, the service provider may not deduct from its gross income amounts paid to the subcontractor where the service provider is personally liable, either primarily or secondarily, for paying the subcontractor. If, however, the hospital is alone liable for paying the subcontractor, and the service provider has no personal liability, either primarily or secondarily,

other than as agent for the hospital, then the service provider may deduct from its gross income the amount it receives from the hospital and pays to the subcontractor. For additional information regarding deductible advances and reimbursements, refer to WAC 458-20-111.

(c) ~~((Can))~~ **May nursing homes ~~((or))~~ and assisted living facilities claim a B&O tax exemption for the rental of real estate?** No. The purpose of nursing homes is to provide medical care to their residents. The purpose of assisted living facilities is to assume general responsibility for the safety and well-being of their residents and to provide other services to residents such as housekeeping, meals, laundry, and activities. Assisted living facilities may also provide residents with assistance with activities of daily living, health support services, and intermittent nursing services. Because the purpose of nursing homes and assisted living facilities is to provide services and not to lease or rent real property, no part of the gross income of nursing homes or assisted living facilities ~~((may be))~~ is exempted from B&O tax as the rental of real estate.

(9) **B&O tax deductions, credits, and exemptions.** This subsection provides information about B&O tax deductions, credits, and exemptions available to persons operating medical or other health care facilities.

Deductible amounts should be included in the gross income reported on the excise tax return and then identified on the appropriate deduction detail line of the excise tax return to determine the amount of taxable income.

(a) **Organ procurement organizations.** RCW 82.04.326 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned by a qualified organ procurement organization under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 273(b) in effect as of January 1, 2001, to the extent that the amounts are exempt from federal income tax~~((, are exempt from B&O tax. RCW 82.04.326))~~.

(b) **Contributions, donations, and endowment funds.** ~~((A B&O tax deduction is provided by))~~ RCW 82.04.4282 provides a B&O tax deduction for amounts received as contributions, donations, and endowment funds, including grants, which are not in exchange for goods, services, or business benefits. For example, a B&O tax deduction is allowed for donations received by a public hospital, as long as the donors do not receive any goods, services, or any business benefits in return. On the other hand, a public hospital ~~((is not allowed to))~~ may not take a B&O tax deduction on amounts earned from a state university for work-study programs or training seminars, because the university receives business benefits in return, as students receive education and training while enrolled in the university's degree programs.

(c) **Adult family homes.** ~~((The))~~ RCW 82.04.327 provides a B&O tax exemption for gross income derived from personal and professional services of adult family homes licensed by the department of social and health services (DSHS), or which are specifically exempt from licensing under the rules of DSHS~~((, is exempt from B&O tax under RCW 82.04.327. The))~~. This exemption ~~((under RCW 82.04.327))~~ does not apply to persons who provide home care services to clients in the clients' own residences.

For the purpose of this rule, "adult family home" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.128.010.

(d) **Nonprofit kidney dialysis facilities, hospice agencies, and nonprofit nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers.** ~~((B&O tax does not apply to))~~ RCW 82.04.4289 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned as compensation for services rendered to patients or from sales of drugs for human use pursuant to a prescription furnished as an in-

tegral part of services rendered to patients by kidney dialysis facilities operated as a nonprofit corporation, nonprofit hospice agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, nonprofit nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers operated as religious or charitable organizations. (~~RCW 82.04.4289.~~) This exemption applies only if no part of the net earnings earned by such an institution inures, directly or indirectly, to any person other than the institution entitled to this exemption. This exemption is available to nonprofit hospitals for income from the operation of kidney dialysis facilities if the hospital accurately identifies and accounts for the income from this activity.

Examples of nonprofit nursing homes include nursing homes operated by church organizations or by nonprofit corporations designed to assist alcoholics in recovery and rehabilitation. Nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers operated by governmental entities, including public hospital districts, do not qualify for the B&O tax exemption provided in RCW 82.04.4289.

(e) **Government payments made to health or social welfare organizations.** (~~A B&O tax deduction is provided by~~) RCW 82.04.4297 provides a B&O tax deduction to health or social welfare organizations, as defined in RCW 82.04.431, for amounts earned directly from the United States, any instrumentality of the United States, the state of Washington, or any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state of Washington as compensation for health or social welfare services.

Effective August 1, 2011, RCW 82.04.4275 provides a B&O tax deduction for amounts health or social welfare organizations receive as compensation for providing child welfare services under a government-funded program.

A deduction is not allowed, however, for amounts that are received under an employee benefit plan. For purposes of the deduction provided by RCW 82.04.4297, "employee benefit plan" includes any plan, trust, commingled employee benefit trust, or custodial arrangement that is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq., or that is described in sections 125, 401, 403, 408, 457, and 501 (c)(9) and (17) through (23) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or a similar plan maintained by a state or local government, or a plan, trust, or custodial arrangement established to self-insure benefits required by federal, state, or local law.

(f) **Amounts earned under a health service program subsidized by federal or state government.** RCW 82.04.4311 provides a B&O tax deduction to:

- A public hospital that is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision; or
- A nonprofit hospital; or
- A nonprofit community health center; or
- A network of nonprofit community health centers, that qualifies as a health and social welfare organization as defined in RCW 82.04.431, (~~may deduct from the measure of B&O tax~~) for amounts earned as compensation for health care services covered under the federal medicare program authorized under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act; medical assistance, children's health, or other program under chapter 74.09 RCW; or for the state of Washington basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW. (~~RCW 82.04.4311.~~) This deduction applies to amounts received directly or through a third party from the qualified programs or plans. However, (~~this deduction~~) it does not apply to amounts received from patient copayments or patient

deductibles. For purposes of the deduction provided by RCW 82.04.4311, "community health center" means a federally qualified health center as defined in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396d as existed on August 1, 2005.

Example 3. Acme Hospital is a nonprofit hospital that qualifies as a health and social welfare organization as defined in RCW 82.04.431. Acme receives \$1,000 for providing health care services to Jane, who qualifies for the federal medicare program authorized under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act. Jane is covered in a health care plan that is a combination of medicare, which is B&O tax deductible by Acme, and a medicare plus plan, which is paid for by Jane and is not B&O tax deductible by Acme. Jane pays \$20 to Acme as patient copayments. Medicare pays \$600 to Acme for the health care services, and the medicare plus plan pays \$380. Acme may ~~((only))~~ deduct only the \$600 received from medicare.

(g) **Blood and tissue banks.** Except as otherwise provided, RCW 82.04.324 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned by a qualifying blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank ~~((are exempt from B&O tax))~~ to the extent ~~((the))~~ such amounts are exempt from federal income tax. ~~((RCW 82.04.324.))~~

Effective October 1, 2013, RCW 82.04.324 provides that persons claiming this exemption must report amounts exempt under this subsection to the department on their excise tax returns. Except for persons whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood, the exemption per person is limited to one hundred fifty thousand dollars in tax per calendar year. RCW 82.04.324(3) is scheduled to expire June 30, 2016.

For the purposes of this exemption, the following definitions apply:

(i) **Qualifying blood bank.** "Qualifying blood bank" means a blood bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, that is registered under 21 C.F.R., Part 607 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood.

Effective October 1, 2013, the definition of "qualifying blood bank" includes an exempt organization, as described above, that tests or processes blood, on behalf of itself or other qualifying blood bank or qualifying blood and tissue bank. This definition is scheduled to expire June 30, 2016. "Qualifying blood bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the National Cancer Institute.

(ii) **Qualifying tissue bank.** "Qualifying tissue bank" means a tissue bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered under 21 C.F.R., Part 1271 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the recovery, processing, storage, labeling, packaging, or distribution of human bone tissue, ligament tissue and similar musculoskeletal tissues, skin tissue, heart valve tissue, or human eye tissue. "Qualifying tissue bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the National Cancer Institute.

(iii) **Qualifying blood and tissue bank.** "Qualifying blood and tissue bank" means a bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered under 21 C.F.R., Parts 607 and 1271 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood, and the recovery, processing, storage, labeling,

packaging, or distribution of human bone tissue, ligament tissue and similar musculoskeletal tissues, skin tissue, and heart valve tissue.

Effective October 1, 2013, the definition of "qualifying blood and tissue bank" includes an exempt organization, as described in (g)(iii) of this subsection, that tests or processes blood, on behalf of itself or other qualifying blood bank or qualifying blood and tissue bank. "Qualifying blood and tissue bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the National Cancer Institute. This definition is scheduled to expire June 30, 2016.

(h) **Assisted living facilities.** RCW 82.04.4337 provides a B&O tax deduction to licensed assisted living facility operators (~~may take a B&O tax deduction~~) for amounts earned as compensation for providing adult residential care, enhanced adult residential care, or assisted living services under contract with the department of social and health services authorized by chapter 74.39A RCW to residents who are medicaid recipients. (~~RCW 82.04.4337.~~) For the purpose of this rule, "adult residential care," "enhanced adult residential care," and "assisted living services" have the same meaning as in RCW 74.39A.009.

In addition, RCW 82.04.4264 provides a B&O tax (~~does not apply to the~~) exemption for amounts earned by a nonprofit assisted living facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW for providing room and domiciliary care to residents of the assisted living facility. (~~RCW 82.04.4264.~~) For purposes of this rule, "nonprofit assisted living facility" means an assisted living facility that is operated as a religious or charitable organization, is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501 (c)(3), is incorporated under chapter 24.03 RCW, is operated as part of a nonprofit hospital, or is operated as part of a public hospital district.

(i) **Comprehensive cancer centers.** RCW 82.04.4265 provides a B&O tax (~~does not apply to the~~) exemption for amounts earned by a comprehensive cancer center to the extent (~~the~~) such amounts are exempt from federal income tax. (~~RCW 82.04.4265.~~) For purposes of this rule, "comprehensive cancer center" means a cancer center that has written confirmation that it is recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center and that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501 (c)(3) as existing on July 1, 2006.

(j) **Prescription drugs administered by the medical service provider.** (~~Effective October 1, 2007,~~) RCW 82.04.620 allows a deduction from the measure of tax for reporting under the service and other activities classification of the B&O tax (RCW 82.04.290) for amounts earned by physicians or clinics for drugs for infusion or injection by licensed physicians or their agents for human use pursuant to a prescription. This deduction only applies to amounts that:

(i) Are separately stated on invoices or other billing statements;

(ii) Do not exceed the then current federal rate; and

(iii) Are covered or required under a health care service program subsidized by the federal or state government.

For the purpose of this deduction only, amounts that "are covered or required under a health care service program subsidized by the federal or state government" include any required drug copayments made directly from the patient to the physician or clinic.

(A) "Federal rate" means the rate at or below which the federal government or its agents reimburse providers for prescription drugs administered to patients as provided for in the medicare, Part B,

drugs average sales price information resource as published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or any index that succeeds it.

(B) The deduction is available on an "all or nothing" basis against the total amount earned for a specific drug charge. If the total amount earned by the physician or clinic for a specific drug exceeds the federal reimbursement rate, none of the total amount earned qualifies for the deduction (including any required copayment received directly from the patient). In other words, a physician or clinic may not simply take an "automatic" deduction equal to the federal reimbursement rate for each drug.

(C) For physicians or clinics reporting taxes on the accrual basis, the total amount charged for a drug must be included in the gross income at the time of billing if it is in excess of the federal rate. However, in some cases the gross income from charges may be adjusted, as indicated in subsection (8)(a) of this rule. If such an adjustment to gross income is appropriate, the exemption discussed in this subsection may also be taken at the time of billing if the adjustment leaves the physician or clinic contractually liable to receive a total amount (including any copayment received from the patient) that does not exceed the federal rate.

~~((k) Hospital safe patient handling credit -- Expired December 30, 2010.~~

~~(i) RCW 82.04.4485 allowed a hospital to take a credit against the B&O tax for the cost of purchasing mechanical lifting devices and other equipment that are primarily used to minimize patient handling by health care providers. To qualify for the credit, the purchases must have been made as part of a safe patient handling program developed and implemented by the hospital in compliance with RCW 70.41.390. The credit was equal to one hundred percent of the cost of the mechanical lifting devices or other equipment. This credit does not apply to purchases made after December 30, 2010.~~

~~(ii) No application is necessary for the credit; however, a hospital taking a credit under this rule must maintain records, as required by the department, necessary to verify eligibility for the credit. The hospital is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW. A credit earned during one calendar year may be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year. No refunds shall be granted for credits under this subsection.~~

~~(iii) The maximum credit that may be earned under this rule for each hospital is limited to one thousand dollars for each acute care available inpatient bed.)~~

(10) Sales, use, and other specified taxes deductions and exemptions. Unless otherwise exempt by law, hospitals, nursing homes, adult family homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care providers are required to pay retail sales tax on purchases of equipment and supplies. The following deductions and exemptions are available to qualified persons.

(a) **Temporary medical housing provided by a health or social welfare organization.** ((Effective July 1, 2008,)) RCW 82.08.997 ((authorized)) provides an exemption from state and local sales taxes and lodging taxes for temporary medical housing provided by a health or social welfare organization. The term "health or social welfare organization" is defined in RCW 82.04.431. "Temporary medical housing" means transient lodging and related services provided to a patient or the patient's immediate family, legal guardian, or other persons necessary to the patient's mental or physical well-being.

(i) The exemption applies to the following taxes:

(A) Retail sales tax levied under RCW 82.08.020;

(B) Lodging taxes levied under chapter 67.28 RCW;

(C) Convention and trade center tax levied under chapter 36.100

RCW;

(D) Public facilities tax levied under RCW 36.100.040; and

(E) Tourism promotion areas tax levied under RCW 35.101.050.

(ii) The exemptions in this subsection apply to charges made for "temporary medical housing" only:

(A) While the patient is receiving medical treatment at a hospital required to be licensed under RCW 70.41.090 or at an outpatient clinic associated with such hospital, including any period of recuperation or observation immediately following such medical treatment; and

(B) By a person that does not furnish lodging or related services to the general public.

(b) **Purchases for resale.** Purchases of tangible personal property for resale without intervening use are not subject to retail sales tax. Persons purchasing tangible personal property for resale must furnish a copy of their reseller permit to the seller to document the wholesale nature of the sale. Reseller permits replaced resale certificates effective January 1, 2010. (~~Even though resale certificates are no longer used, they must be kept on file by the seller for five years from the date of last use or December 31, 2014. For additional information on reseller permits see WAC 458-20-102.~~)

(c) **Sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to a comprehensive cancer center.** RCW 82.08.808 and 82.12.808 provide, respectively, retail sales tax and use tax exemptions for sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to a comprehensive cancer center (~~are exempt from retail sales and use taxes. RCW 82.08.808 and 82.12.808~~). These exemptions do not apply to sales of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(i) **Medical supplies.** For purposes of this exemption, "medical supplies" means any item of tangible personal property, including any repair and replacement parts for such tangible personal property, used by a comprehensive cancer center for the purpose of performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue. The term includes tangible personal property used to:

(A) Provide preparatory treatment of blood, bone, or tissue;

(B) Control, guide, measure, tune, verify, align, regulate, test, or physically support blood, bone, or tissue; and

(C) Protect the health and safety of employees or others present during research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(ii) **Chemicals.** For purposes of this exemption, "chemical" means any catalyst, solvent, water, acid, oil, or other additive that physically or chemically interacts with blood, bone, or tissue.

(iii) **Materials.** For purposes of this exemption, "materials" means any item of tangible personal property including, but not limited to, bags, packs, collecting sets, filtering materials, testing reagents, antisera, and refrigerants used or consumed in performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(iv) **Research.** For purposes of this exemption, "research" means basic and applied research that has as its objective the design, de-

velopment, refinement, testing, marketing, or commercialization of a product, service, or process.

(d) **Sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to organ procurement organizations.** RCW 82.08.02807 and 82.12.02749 provides, respectively, retail sales tax and use tax exemptions for sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to organ procurement organizations exempt under RCW 82.04.326 ((are exempt from retail sales and use taxes. RCW 82.08.02807 and 82.12.02749)). These exemptions do not apply to the sale of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(11) **Buyer's responsibility to remit deferred sales or use tax.** If the seller does not collect retail sales tax on a retail sale, the buyer must remit the retail sales tax (commonly referred to as "deferred sales tax") or use tax directly to the department unless the purchases are specifically exempt by law. For detailed information regarding the use tax, refer to WAC 458-20-178.

(a) **How do I report deferred sales or use tax.** Persons registered with the department and required to file tax returns should report deferred sales or use tax on their excise tax return. As the excise tax return does not have a separate line for reporting deferred sales tax, the buyer should report the tax liability on the use tax line. If a deferred sales tax or use tax liability is incurred by a person who is not required to be registered with the department, the person must report the tax on a "Consumer Use Tax Return" and remit the appropriate tax to the department.

(b) **Where can I obtain a Consumer Use Tax Return?** The Consumer Use Tax Return may be obtained from the department's web site at dor.wa.gov, or by calling the department's telephone information center at 1-800-647-7706.