North Carolina Medical Board



Venkata Jonnalagadda, MD: President | John W. Rusher, MD: President-Elect | Michaux R. Kilpatrick, MD; Sec/Treasurer

June 1, 2021

The Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations The Office of the State Budget and Management

Dear All:

The North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB) is filing this final report in compliance with <u>Session Law 2020-97</u>, <u>Section 3.20(c)</u>. During the current state of emergency, the NCMB has implemented the following:

- Waived all late renewal fees and licensees will only be made inactive if they submit a request in writing.
- Suspended Continuing Medical Education (CME) Compliance Programs temporarily and extended the grace period for licensees to meet insufficient CME reporting from 3 months to 6.
- Postponed the USMLE and COMLEX Step/Level 2 examination requirements for medical school graduates applying for a resident training license.
 - USMLE Step 2 CK and COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE are close to or completely up and running. The Board will consider dissolving this Order at its July 2021 Board meeting.
- Allowed Physician Assistant (PA) graduates who were not able to complete the PA
 National Certifying Examination (PANCE) required for a full license to receive a
 temporary license. The temporary license is valid up to six month and will allow the
 PA to practice under the supervision of an on-site physician. [Dissolved]
 - The Board issued a <u>Dissolution Order</u> of this waiver on April 1, 2021, as PA graduates are no longer having difficulty taking the PANCE and testing centers are available. There was no request for the continued benefit of the waiver.
- Suspended background checks for licensing applications temporarily.
 - o The Board will consider dissolving this Order at its July 2021 Board meeting.

- Created a pathway for both inactive and out of state licensees to practice in North Carolina through an <u>emergency temporary license</u>. The emergency temporary license application is a simple process, with no fee. The NCMB has also extended the expiration date for emergency temporary licenses to <u>30 days</u> after the current state of emergency is lifted. Fully qualified physicians who are completing <u>advanced</u> <u>fellowship training</u> with a North Carolina training institution may also apply for a limited emergency license. [March 2020]
- Waived certain documentation requirements for <u>Physician Assistants</u> and <u>Nurse Practitioners</u>. [March 31, 2020]
- Provided guidance on who can administer COVID-19 vaccinations [February 10, 2021]
- Physician Assistants participating at <u>COVID-19 vaccination locations</u> may perform medical acts, tasks and functions related ot vaccinations without submitting a new Intent to Practice form or creating a new supervisory arrangement as long as the PA is qualified to perform the medical acts, tasks and functions and not prohibited from such under their current supervisory arrangement. [February 11, 2021]

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Thomas W. Mansfield Chief Legal Officer

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