



March 18, 2020

## Issuance of Temporary Licenses to Health Care Practitioners Not Licensed In Pennsylvania to be Expedited During Coronavirus Emergency

Governor Wolf granted the Department of State's request for a suspension to allow expedited temporary licensure to practitioners in other states to provide services to Pennsylvanians, for the duration of the coronavirus emergency.

The guidance and suspensions apply to the following boards:

- **Medicine**

- The temporary license requirement that limits a practitioner to participating in a medical procedure necessary for a specified patient was suspended by the Governor.
- The Governor suspended several "administrative requirements" in order for the Department to grant temporary licenses on an expedited basis to out-of-state practitioners.
  - Process in place during disaster declaration: After the applicant seeking a temporary license has demonstrated they are licensed by and in good standing with their home state, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) may suspend the requirements for letters of good standing, criminal history record checks, National Practitioner Data Bank reports, and any other requirement deemed by BPOA as "administrative" in nature.
- The Governor suspended several continuing education requirements which, if enforced at this time, would create delays in issuing temporary licenses.
  - Process in place during disaster declaration: BPOA may suspend any continuing education (C.E.) requirements for such applicants seeking a temporary license.

### Licensees overseen by the State Board of Medicine include:

- Medical Physicians & Surgeons
- Acupuncturists
- Athletic Trainers
- Behavior Specialists
- Genetic Counselors
- Graduate Medical Trainees
- Nurse-Midwives
- Orthotic Fitters
- Medical Physician Assistants
- Orthotists
- Podiatrists
- Perfusionists
- Physician Acupuncturists
- Practitioners of Oriental Medicine
- Prosthetists
- Respiratory Therapists



- **Osteopathic Medicine**

- The Osteopathic Board does not have a statutory provision for the issuance of temporary licenses; however, out-of-state licensees can apply for an unrestricted license. These licenses also have continuing education requirements suspended by the Governor.
  - Process in place during disaster declaration: BPOA staff can check licensure status through the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) similar to what they will do for medical board staff. BPOA may suspend any continuing education (C.E.) requirements for such applicants seeking a temporary license.

**Licensees overseen by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine include:**

- Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
- Osteopathic Acupuncturists
- Osteopathic Athletic Trainers
- Osteopathic Genetic Counselors
- Graduate Osteopathic Trainees
- Osteopathic Physician Assistant
- Osteopathic Perfusionists
- Osteopathic Physician Acupuncturists
- Osteopathic Respiratory Therapists

- **Nursing**

- Temporary permits for nurses licensed in other states can be issued immediately upon application, once licensure in the applicant's home state is verified through NURSYS, based on a suspension approved by the Governor. Also, like medical and osteopathic medicine above, the Governor temporarily suspended continuing education requirements.
  - Process in place during disaster declaration: BPOA staff can check licensure status through NURSYS as they will do for medical board staff. BPOA may suspend any continuing education (C.E.) requirements for applicants seeking a temporary license.

**Licensees overseen by the State Board of Nursing include:**

- Registered Nurses (RNs)
- Practical Nurses (PNs)
- Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs)
- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs)
- Dietitian-Nutritionist (LDNs)

- **Nurse-Midwives**

- Temporary licenses for nurse-midwives do not exist. To expedite nurse-midwife licenses, the continuing education requirements were suspended by the Governor. Additionally, the Board can verify licensure in another state through their license verification system. To qualify for licensure as a nurse-midwife, the



applicant would first have to obtain a nursing license.

- Process in place during disaster declaration: For an applicant seeking a temporary nurse-midwives license, they should apply for a temporary nurse license or temporary practice permit, then get approvals to suspend requirements under the medical board. BPOA may suspend any administrative or continuing education (C.E.) requirements as described for the nursing board and medical board (above). BPOA is authorized to verify the licensee's good standing in another state via that state's license verification system.