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March 15, 2021

Dear North Carolina Nurse Practitioner,

The NC Board of Nursing (NCBON) thanks you for your continued dedication to providing high quality health care to your patients always, and especially during the COVID-19 crisis. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of recent actions taken by the NC General Assembly (NCGA) to extend the previous legislative waivers of specific regulatory requirements to facilitate your ability to provide care during these unprecedented times.

In 2020, the NCGA passed Session Law 2020-3/Senate Bill 704 (COVID-19 Recovery Act), which was signed by Governor Cooper on May 4, 2020. Section 3D.5 of the law temporarily waives the requirement for Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) meetings and corresponding documentation for nurse practitioners who were practicing prior to February 1, 2020. The law also temporarily waives the monthly QIP meetings for experienced nurse practitioners who change employers or supervising physicians. The annual requirement for review/signature of an established collaborative practice agreement (CPA) is also temporarily waived. For nurse practitioners currently approved to practice in NC, the application, fee, CPA and QIP have been waived for those who wish to volunteer. The NCBON is not requiring an application but does request that nurse practitioners complete a brief form so we can collect data about the NC response to COVID-19.

Recently, the NCGA passed Session Law 2021-3 / House Bill 196 (2021 COVID-19 Response & Relief), which was signed by Governor Cooper on March 11, 2021. This new law has extended the previous waivers through December 31, 2022.

The waivers referenced above do not change the regulatory requirement for a supervising physician and collaboration within the health care team. The purpose is to reduce regulatory burdens whenever possible to ease the way our NC health care teams work together to focus on patients, not paperwork.

If you have questions about the nurse practitioner provisions within the *COVID-19 Recovery Act*, please contact the NCBON at 919-782-3211 and you will be directed to the appropriate person to assist you.

Again, the NCBON thanks you for the high-quality care that you deliver to your patients!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal L. Tillman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Crystal L. Tillman, DNP, RN, CNP, FRE  
Chief Executive Officer  
NC Board of Nursing