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Dear North Carolina Nurse Practitioner,

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

The NCBON and the NCMB approved waivers to facilitate new graduate nurse practitioners to enter the workforce and for nurse practitioners with an inactive approval to practice status to rapidly reinstate and return to the workforce. Additionally, the Boards have ordered that a nurse practitioner may be reassigned to a new practice environment within the same facility (i.e., hospital, multi-specialty group practice) without regard to his or her academic preparation and national certification and without updating his or her supervisory arrangements, given certain parameters. Please visit the links below to view the details of these waivers and the order:

Nurse Practitioner Emergency Reinstatement and Emergency Temporary Graduate Waivers:

<https://www.ncbon.com/myfiles/downloads/coronavirus/nurse-practitioner-temporary-waivers.pdf>

Nurse Practitioner Order to Relax Scope of Practice Requirements:

<https://www.ncbon.com/myfiles/downloads/coronavirus/nurse-practitioner-order-to-relax-scope-requirements.pdf>

The NCGA recently passed the *COVID-19 Recovery Act* (Session Law 2020-3/Senate Bill 704), which was signed by Governor Cooper on May 4, 2020. Section 3D.5 of the law 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 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 waived. The law remains in effect until December 31, 2021.

For nurse practitioners currently approved to practice in NC, the application, fee, CPA and QIP are waived for those who wish to volunteer. The NCBON will not require an application but does request that nurse practitioners complete a brief form so we can collect data about the NC response to COVID-19. This provision of the law will also remain in effect until December 31, 2021.

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 COVID-19 related waivers or implementation of 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,



Julia L. George, RN, MSN, FRE
Chief Executive Officer
NC Board of Nursing

