



**THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF NURSING ORDER REGARDING THE  
REASSIGNMENT OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS TO A NEW PRACTICE AREA OR  
POPULATION FOCUS TO MEET CRITICAL NEEDS DURING THE COVID-19  
EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person-to-person; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; and

**WHEREAS**, by Executive Order No. 116 on March 10, 2020, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for the entire State of North Carolina based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Board of Nursing (“NCBON”) and the North Carolina Medical Board (“NCMB”) are agencies of the State of North Carolina organized under Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and are charged with the responsibility for approving the practice of nurse practitioners in North Carolina and regulating such practice in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to alleviate possible shortages of qualified healthcare professionals in critical need areas, the Board finds it necessary to relax certain regulatory requirements regarding nurse practitioners practicing outside of their academic education and national certification; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest for the NCBON and the NCMB to take this action; and

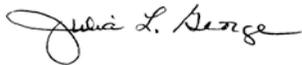
**WHEREAS**, by taking this action, the NCBON and the NCMB will be assisting hospitals and other healthcare facilities and practices in combatting the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCBON and the NCMB has authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-171.49 and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-12.5 respectively to take this action in order to permit the provision of emergency health services to the public for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina and the United States of America; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. Nurse Practitioners may be reassigned to a new practice area within the same facility (i.e., hospital, multi-specialty group practice) without regard to their academic preparation and national certification and without updating his or her supervisory arrangements, so long as:
  - a. the nurse practitioner is reassigned to perform only those medical duties which the nurse practitioner is competent and qualified to do; and
  - b. the nurse practitioner has reasonable and immediate access to a physician, either in person or electronically, should medical issues arise.
2. During the temporary emergency reassignment, the nurse practitioner is expected to comply with all other applicable rules, including the requirement to confer at least monthly with a physician to ensure meaningful supervision and quality assurance within the new practice setting.
3. This Order is effective *only during the length of the declared state of emergency in North Carolina*.

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.



Julia L. George, RN, MSN, FRE  
Chief Executive Officer  
The North Carolina Board of Nursing