



April 9, 2020

Amended July 28, 2020

On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The North Carolina Board of Nursing (“Board”) and the North Carolina Medical Board (“Medical Board”) jointly regulate the practice of nurse practitioners and are vested with the authority to waive the requirements of Article 9A and Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to allow emergency health services to the public if the Governor declares a state of emergency.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Board by N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-171.49 in response to Executive Order 116 (2020), the Board hereby waives the following rules and requirements:

- **Emergency Temporary Reinstatement of Nurse Practitioner Approval to Practice**

21 NCAC 36 .0808 INACTIVE STATUS

- (c) A nurse practitioner with an inactive approval to practice status who reapplies for approval to practice shall meet the qualifications for approval to practice in Rules .0803(a)(1), .0804(a) and (b), .0807, and .0810 of this Section and receive notification from the Board of Nursing of approval prior to beginning practice after the application is approved by both Boards.

Waive the provisions of registration and certification in .0804(a)(1), continuing education in .0807, and submission of a fee in .0813 so that an applicant may practice as a nurse practitioner during the declared state of emergency. All other provisions and requirements shall apply. Applicants with approvals to practice surrendered or suspended due to disciplinary action will not be considered. The emergency permit is temporary and shall expire on August 1, 2020, unless the waiver provisions are sooner amended, or rescinded by the Board or further Executive Order.

- **Emergency Temporary Graduate NP Approval to Practice**

21 NCAC 36 .0803 NURSE PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION

- (a) The Board of Nursing shall register an applicant as a nurse practitioner who:
 - (1) has an unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse in North Carolina and, when applicable, an unrestricted approval, registration or license as a nurse practitioner in another state, territory, or possession of the United States;
 - (2) has successfully completed a nurse practitioner education program as outlined in Rule .0805 of this Section;
 - (3) is certified as a nurse practitioner by a national credentialing body consistent with 21 NCAC 36 .0801(8); and
 - (4) has supplied additional information necessary to evaluate the application as requested.
- (b) Beginning January 1, 2005, new graduates of a nurse practitioner program, who are seeking first-time nurse practitioner registration in North Carolina shall:
 - (1) hold a Master's or higher degree in Nursing or related field with primary focus on Nursing;
 - (2) have successfully completed a graduate level nurse practitioner education program accredited by a national accrediting body; and
 - (3) provide documentation of certification by a national credentialing body.

21 NCAC 36 .0804 PROCESS FOR APPROVAL TO PRACTICE

- (a) Prior to the performance of any medical acts, a nurse practitioner shall:
 - (1) meet registration requirements as specified in 21 NCAC 36 .0803;
 - (2) submit an application for approval to practice;
 - (3) submit any additional information necessary to evaluate the application as requested; and
 - (4) have a collaborative practice agreement with a primary supervising physician.

Waive the provisions requiring documentation of certification by a national credentialing body so an applicant for a first-time approval to practice may practice as a nurse practitioner until they are able to take the certification examination in accordance with these rules. Practice shall be under the supervision of an on-site supervising physician. The holder of a temporary approval to practice shall identify themselves as a Graduate Nurse Practitioner. This temporary approval to practice shall expire 6 months from the date of issuance.

This waiver does not waive other statutory requirements or limitations. This waiver shall take effect on April 9, 2020 and shall remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2020, or unless sooner amended, or rescinded by the Board or further Executive Order.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia L. George".

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