

Senate Bill 704 Covid-19 Recovery Act (May 4, 2020)

TEMPORARY FLEXIBILITY FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

SECTION 3D.5.(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) Quality improvement plan rules. – The rules regulating the quality improvement process for physician assistants and nurse practitioners found in 21 NCAC 32S .0213, 21 NCAC 32M .0110, and 21 NCAC 36 .0810.

(2) Application fee rules. – The portions of rules found in 21 NCAC 32S .0204, 21 NCAC 32M .0115, and 21 NCAC 36 .0813 that require the payment of an application fee.

(3) Annual review rules. – The portions of rules requiring the annual review or renewal of a practice arrangement between a physician and a physician assistant or nurse practitioner found in 21 NCAC 32S .0201, 21 NCAC 32M .0110, and 21 NCAC 36 .0806.

SECTION 3D.5.(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, neither the North Carolina Medical Board nor the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall enforce any provision of the quality improvement plan rules to the extent they require any of the following:

(1) Quality improvement process meetings between a physician and a physician assistant or nurse practitioner, provided that the physician assistant or nurse practitioner was practicing within the scope of his or her license prior to February 1, 2020, and continues to practice within the scope of his or her license while this section is effective.

(2) Monthly quality improvement process meetings between a physician and a physician assistant or nurse practitioner during the first six months of the practice arrangement between the physician and the physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

SECTION 3D.5.(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, neither the North Carolina Medical Board nor the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall enforce any provision of the quality improvement plan rules or the application fee rules to the extent they require any individual to fill out an application or pay a fee, provided that individual is providing volunteer health care services within the scope of his or her license in response to the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by the Governor of North Carolina on March 10, 2020.

SECTION 3D.5.(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, neither the North Carolina Medical Board nor the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall enforce any provision of the annual review rules.

SECTION 3D.5.(e) This section is effective when it becomes law and expires December 31, 2021.