

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD ORDER ALLOWING FOR THE
EXPEDITIOUS REACTIVATION OF INACTIVE PHYSICIAN AND PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT LICENSES IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HELENE**

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2024, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, the Governor identified the following counties and territories as subject to the declaration: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 318 entitled Meeting North Carolina's Response and Recovery Needs in Support of Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 318 authorized health care licensing boards to waive or modify enforcement of any legal or regulatory constraint in order to increase the pool of professional health care workers and provide flexibility to meet the needs of the relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") is an agency of the State of North Carolina organized under Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is charged with the responsibility for licensing and regulating physicians and physician assistants in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide as much flexibility for health care institutions to meet the needs of Hurricane Helene relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Board to take this action; and

WHEREAS, the Board discussed this subject at length at an emergency meeting held on October 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board has authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-12.5 to take this action in order to permit the provision of emergency health services to the public; and

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

1. Board staff is directed to create a Limited Emergency License (“LEL”) and an application for such physician and physician assistant licensees who have an inactive North Carolina license and meet the following criteria:


- a. The licensee inactivated her or his license while in good standing. Good standing shall mean that the licensee was not made inactive by a public disciplinary action or did not inactivate his or her license while under investigation by the Board.
- b. The licensee shall not have been out of clinical practice more than five (5) years.

2. The LEL shall be effective only during the length of the declared state of emergency plus thirty (30) days and shall expire without further Order from the Board 30 days after the state of emergency has ended.

3. This Order is effective only during the length of the declared state of emergency.

This the 23rd day of October, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: 
Christine M. Khandelwal, D.O., MHPE
President