

North Carolina Medical Board  
License Committee Agenda  
July 2021

Varnell McDonald-Fletcher, PA-C, Chairperson, Jerri Patterson, NP, W. Howard Hall, MD,  
Joshua Malcolm, JD, Devdutta Sangvai, MD

Open Session

Old Business

New Business

1. On April 10, 2020, the Board issued an Order making the expiration date for all Limited Emergency licenses be thirty days after the COVID-19 State of Emergency ends. Board staff have been meeting regularly to discuss all Orders relating to COVID-19. The working presumption is this Order will expire on its own and essentially resolve itself 30 days after the COVID-19 State of Emergency ends.

Recommendation: Staff to continue to monitor.

2. On March 31, 2020, the Board issued an Order allowing the issuance of a Limited Emergency license to physicians in a fellowship who currently hold a resident training license. Board staff have been meeting regularly to discuss all Orders relating to COVID-19. The working presumption is this Order will expire on its own and essentially resolve itself 30 days after the COVID-19 State Emergency ends.

Recommendation: Staff to continue to monitor.

3. On March 31, 2020, the Board issued an Order postponing both parts of USMLE Step 2 and COMLEX-USA Level 2 requirements for certain physicians applying for a resident training license. At its March 2021 meeting, the Board removed the licensure requirements related to USMLE Step 2 CS and COMLEX-USA Level 2 PE. Therefore, we are left with this Order as it pertains to USMLE Step 2 CK and COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE. Both of these examinations appear to be close to or completely up and running.

Recommendation: Dissolve Order effective August 31, 2021.

4. On March 31, 2020, the Board issued an Order postponing the background check licensing requirement. It appears that background checks are readily available to be obtained throughout the country.

Recommendation:

1. Dissolve Order effective August 31, 2021. Update Board website to reflect this dissolution.
  2. Notify all licensees who have not obtained a background check per this Order that they will be required to obtain a background check.
  3. Minor issues involving background check requirement compliance and background check results may be handled by SSRC, who are preauthorized to resolve minor issues via non-disciplinary means (AAI, PLOC or PubLoc).
  4. All other matters will be handled via the Investigative process and referred to the Board.
5. Telemedicine question added to renewal application.

Staff recently discussed the practice of telemedicine in North Carolina. It was recommended to add a question to the renewal application that asks what percentage of a licensee's practice of medicine in the prior year was via telemedicine.

Recommendation: Add telemedicine question to the renewal application.

6. Modification to questions 3, 4, and 5 on licensure applications.

At the May 2021, Board meeting, the Wellness and Burnout Workgroup considered the Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB) April 2018 report and recommendations on Physician Wellness and Burnout. The recommendations relevant to the regulatory community included application questions addressing substance use. Questions numbered 3-5 on the NCMB initial license application address substance use history.

Recommendation: Add the following statement to the end of questions 3 – 5 on all license applications.

*If you are an anonymous participant in the NC Professionals Health Program and are in compliance with your agreement, you may answer "no" to this question.*