

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD ORDER REGARDING THE REASSIGNMENT OF
NURSE PRACTITIONERS TO A NEW PRACTICE AREA 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 Medical Board (“NCMB”) is an agency of the State of North Carolina organized under Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is charged with jointly regulating the practice of nurse practitioners in North Carolina along with the North Carolina Board of Nursing 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 the reassignment of nurse practitioners to new practice areas without the need to submit a new approval to practice application or update collaborative practice agreements; and

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

WHEREAS, the NCMB held an emergency meeting on April 9, 2020, and discussed this subject; and

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

WHEREAS, the NCMB 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

WHEREAS, the NCMB voted to take this action on April 9, 2020, for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina and the United States of America.

