

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD ORDER MAKING THE EXPIRATION DATE FOR ALL EMERGENCY LICENSES BE THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY ENDS**

**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**, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020; 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 the responsibility for licensing physicians, physician assistants, anesthesiologist assistants and perfusionists to practice in North Carolina and regulating such practice in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently multiple NCMB rules related to emergency licensure, including 21 NCAC 32B .1706, 21 NCAC 32B .1707, 21 NCAC 32S .0219; 21 NCAC 32W .0116 and 21 NCAC 32V .0111; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of these rules have a renewable expiration date that is the shorter of (a) thirty (30) days from the start of practice or license issue date or (b) the declared end of an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, NCMB staff will soon have to begin the process of renewing many of the emergency licenses it has issued to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and doing so will take up valuable NCMB staff resources and time; and

**WHEREAS**, it will be a more efficient process to change the expiration date for all emergency licenses that the NCMB issues in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic to be thirty (30)

days after the State of Emergency as declared in Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 116 has ended; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCMB met on April 9, 2020, and discussed this subject at length and the utility of changing the expiration date for all emergency licenses the NCMB issues; 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.

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

1. All emergency licenses the NCMB issues in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic shall expire thirty (30) days after the State of Emergency as declared in Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 116 has ended.
2. This Order shall be effective as of the date the NCMB voted to take this action on April 9, 2020, and shall apply (a) prospectively to all future emergency licenses issued by the NCMB and (b) retroactively to all emergency licenses already issued by the NCMB relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This the 10th day of April, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD



By: \_\_\_\_\_

Bryant A. Murphy, M.D.  
President