



Memorandum

To: NCMB Licensees
From: NC Medical Board
Date: April 29, 2020
Re: Executive Order #130: Guidance on Training

Gov. Cooper's Executive Order #130 states in Section 3(a)(d):

Guidance on training and qualifications. The professional health care licensure boards shall provide guidance on the training and qualifications necessary for their licensees to be ready to address workforce shortages in essential health care services needed to properly manage this State of Emergency.

The North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB or Board) recognizes that during the COVID-19 pandemic, physicians and physician assistants may need to move, perhaps abruptly, into different areas of medical practice in order to respond to critical patient needs directly related to the State of Emergency. These changes may require additional training and education to ensure that care is rendered safely.

It is NCMB's view that each licensee should make a meaningful self-assessment and use their good judgment, grounded in their prior education, training and experience, to determine whether any additional training and education is necessary and whether the licensee can practice safely in the new setting performing new tasks. The Board does not put any requirements on the amount or type of training, such as achieving a certificate or the course being approved for continuing medical education credit. For licensees who practice in a hospital, health system, or large practice setting, necessary training will likely be provided by the employer through on-the-ground training. For all licensees, including those in independent or rural practices, useful training may be available through professional or specialty member associations, [NC Area Health Education Center \(AHEC\)](#), local AHEC branches, or other training organizations.

NCMB recognizes that standards of care for patients affected by the pandemic may change as the necessity to triage and manage limited resources escalates. Whether licensees move to a different practice area or to a different delivery model (e.g., telehealth), the Board expects them to honestly self-assess and take action to ensure they are adequately trained and can safely treat their patients. Also, licensees should assess the capacity of any health care professionals they supervise and ensure they are adequately trained for the care being rendered. No NCMB licensee should feel compelled to provide medical services they do not reasonably believe they are adequately trained to perform safely.