

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD ORDER REGARDING THE REASSIGNMENT OF  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS 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 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**, 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 physician assistants to new practice areas without the need to submit a new intent to practice or update supervisory arrangements; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the NCMB held an emergency meeting on March 27, 2020, and discussed this subject at length; 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 March 27, 2020, for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina and the United States of America.

