



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Physician Assistants – Maryland State of Emergency – COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

The Board of Physicians has received a number of questions regarding Physician Assistant practice during the COVID-19 pandemic and hopes to address many of them here. Please continue to check the Board's website for updated information.

Q: May a physician supervise more than four physician assistants during the state of emergency?

A: Yes. The Board has suspended the limitation on supervising four physician assistants at one time in all practice settings during the state of emergency.

Q: May a physician assistant practice under a supervising physician prior to receiving notification of receipt of the delegation agreement application from the Board during the state of emergency?

A: Yes. A physician assistant shall notify the Board by submitting a written delegation agreement within 30 days of beginning to perform medical acts during the state of emergency. 10.32.03.15.

Q: May a physician assistant perform advanced duties under a supervising physician prior to receiving notification of approval of the delegation agreement application from the Board during the state of emergency?

A: Yes. A physician assistant shall notify the Board by submitting an application and required documentation within 30 days of beginning to perform advanced duty medical acts during the state of emergency and the Board will send written confirmation. 10.32.03.15.

Q: May a physician assistant perform acts not specified in his/her delegation agreement, such as working in a different specialty, prior to submitting a new delegation agreement?

A: Yes. A physician assistant may begin practice in other areas other than his/her primary supervising physician's specialty, so long as they are being supervised by either the current or a new Maryland licensed physician, but should notify the Board by submitting a modification or addendum to the delegation agreement within 30 days from beginning the other specialty.

Q: May a physician assistant practice under the supervision of a physician who is not licensed in Maryland during the state of emergency?

A: No. While certain physicians may practice in Maryland without a Maryland license during the state of emergency, a physician assistant must still be supervised by a Maryland licensed physician.

Q: May a physician assistant engage in activities that are not authorized by his license?

A: A physician assistant may treat patients in this state by participating in activities that are not authorized by his/her license in a health care facility under the supervision of qualified supervisory personnel if that supervisor reasonably concludes that the physician assistant can competently engage in such activity, the qualified supervisory personnel supervises the physician assistant while he/she is engaged in such activity, and if doing so is necessary to allow the health care facility to meet staffing ratios or otherwise ensure continued safe delivery of health care services.

Q: May a physician assistant with an out-of-state license treat patients in Maryland during the state of emergency?

A: Yes, a physician assistant may treat patients in this state under the supervision of a Maryland licensed physician but must notify the Board by submitting a written delegation agreement within 30 days of beginning to perform medical acts.

Q: May a Physician Assistant perform telehealth during the Maryland state of emergency?

A: Yes. Please consult the Board's Telehealth Frequently Asked Questions available on the Board's website for more information about the practice of telehealth.

Q: Do I need to submit a new or amend a current delegation agreement if I am a Maryland licensed physician assistant working at a hospital or other health care facility and I wish to transition to a different specialty or practice location within the hospital or health care facility during the state of emergency?

A: No. If you are being supervised by supervisory personnel at a health care facility, as defined in Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General § 19-114(d), you do not need to submit a revised delegation agreement.

Q: Do I need to submit a delegation agreement if I am an out-of-state physician assistant working at a hospital or other health care facility?

A: No. If you are an out-of-state physician assistant practicing medicine to ensure continued safe delivery of health care services at a health care facility, as defined in Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General § 19-114(d), you do not need to submit a delegation agreement.

Q: What is a health care facility?

A: A health care facility includes any of the entities described in Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General § 19-114(d). This definition includes a hospital, a limited service hospital, and a related institution as defined in Health-General § 19-301. For a full definition of health care facility including a list of defined entities, see Health-General § 19-114(d).

PLEASE BE ADVISED: The suspension of statutes and regulations during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency, as approved by the Board in its public notice, as proclaimed by the Governor in the March 16, 2020 Executive Order “Relating to Various Health Care Matters,” and will not be considered as a basis for making these temporary changes permanent.