



## Iowa Board of Physician Assistants Guidelines Related to Governor Reynold's Proclamations & COVID-19

Governor Kim Reynolds has issued a Proclamation of Emergency Disaster. In this Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended a number of regulatory provisions applicable to various professions. The full text of the Proclamation is available on the Governor's website. The Board issues the following guidance regarding the Proclamation:

### **Physician Assistants Who's Licenses Expired or Lapsed within the Past Five Years**

The Proclamation temporarily suspends the regulations prohibiting the practice of physician assistants on inactive or expired licenses. The suspension is limited to P.A.s whose licenses have expired within the five (5) years prior to the Proclamation, and is further limited to the provision of medical services to victims of COVID-19. Accordingly, P.A.s whose licenses expired within five years of March 17, 2020, and whose licenses are not otherwise restricted due to Board discipline, may immediately begin providing care to aid the COVID-19 pandemic without first reactivating their licenses.

### **Expedited Review of Temporary and Endorsement License Applications**

The Proclamation directed certain health professions boards, including the Board of Physician Assistants, to promulgate guidance to its licensees regarding how to obtain initial licensure during this public health disaster emergency. The Board has issued a statement on its process for expediting review of temporary and endorsement licenses, which can be found on the Board's [website](#).

### **License Renewals**

The Proclamation temporarily suspends administrative rules relating to license expirations during the period of the Proclamation. This means that if a license expired while the Proclamation is in effect, the licensee would not be required to renew until after the termination of the Proclamation. However, physician assistant licenses do not expire until the end of September for each licensee's biennium. This provision does not currently impact physician assistants.

### **Continuing Education**

Licensees have until June 30, 2021 to complete the continuing education required for license renewal for licenses set to expire on September 30, 2020. Licensees may renew prior to completing the required continuing education. In order to complete the renewal application, licensees will need to attest to completion of the required continuing education. Licensees should attest to the completion of the required hours if they have completed, or plan to complete, the required continuing education by June 30, 2021.

Any Board rules that require licensees to complete any continuing education in-person are waived for this license renewal.

### **Telehealth**

The Proclamation temporarily suspends regulatory provisions that require Iowa licensure for providing remote or electronic physician assistant services to patients located in Iowa. Accordingly, a physician assistant who holds an active license in another state may provide telehealth or electronic services to patients located in Iowa. Please note that any HIPAA provisions that have not been waived by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must still be complied with when providing telehealth services during this emergency. Additionally, please note that the standard of care for electronic or telehealth care is the same standard as in-person care, and each provider must ensure compliance with all applicable laws and rules when providing remote services.