



Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology Guidance Related to Governor Reynold's Proclamations & COVID-19

On March 17 and 22, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds issued Proclamations of Disaster Emergency. In these Proclamations, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended a number of regulatory provisions applicable to a number of professions, including speech pathology and audiology. The Proclamation ease administrative rules relating to renewal of licenses, continuing education, clinical requirements, and telehealth. *The suspension of rules identified in the Proclamations is effective through April 16, 2020, unless the Governor terminates or extends the Proclamations.* As required in the Proclamation, the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology issues this guidance relating to the temporary suspension of administrative rules in these areas:

License Renewal

Section Six of the March 22 Proclamation temporarily suspended 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, speech pathology and audiology licenses expire on December 31, 2021. Because the Governor's Proclamation is set to expire on April 16, 2020, this provision does not currently impact speech pathologists or audiologists. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and will provide future guidance about possible suspensions of license renewal requirements as necessary in the future.

Continuing Education

Section Five of the March 22 Proclamation temporarily suspended rules relating to continuing education deadlines or in-person continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. In light of decreased in-person continuing education opportunities available this calendar year, licensees will not be required to demonstrate that a minimum number of continuing education hours were completed in-person during this licensing cycle.

Supervised Clinical Training Requirements

Section Seven of the March 22 Proclamation temporarily suspended the administrative rules requiring completion of 400 supervised clinical hours within nine months. This means temporary clinical license holders who experienced a disruption of hours during their nine months' clinical experience due to COVID-19, and whose license is scheduled to expire while the Proclamation is in effect, are not required to renew their licenses during the duration of the Proclamation. Temporary clinical license holders will have thirty (30) days after the Proclamation expires to and complete any remaining clinical hours and renew their licenses without penalty. Licensees are encouraged to contact the Board if they have questions about obtaining their 400 hours of supervised clinical training.

Telehealth

Section Nine of the March 17 Proclamation temporarily suspended regulatory provisions establishing preconditions, limitations, or restrictions on the provision of telehealth or telemedicine services, and other administrative rules that require face-to-face interactions with health care providers. Please note that an Iowa license is still required to provide services to patients located in Iowa, and 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.