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**INDEPENDENT PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES**

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. On March 26, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel issued an Order authorizing independent practice by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).

In accordance with the Commissioner’s Order, certified nurse midwives may continue to engage in prescriptive practice as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 94C, s. 7(g) and M.G.L. c. 112, ss. 80C and 80G.

APRNs in all categories recognized by the Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN), other than certified nurse midwives, who have at least 2 years of supervised practice experience, or its equivalent may engage in prescriptive practice without physician supervision and without written guidelines. 2 years of professional practice as an APRN in a jurisdiction that does not require physician supervision of prescriptive practice shall be equivalent to 2 years supervised practice.

APRNs in all BORN recognized categories, other than certified nurse midwives, who have less than 2 years of supervised practice experience, or its equivalent as specified above, may engage in prescriptive practice with physician supervision of such prescriptive practice as currently required by law. APRNs who currently have written guidelines in place for physician supervision of prescriptive practice and have no need to collaborate with a different physician during the state of emergency may continue to practice in accordance with those guidelines.

APRNs who collaborate with a different physician for purposes of supervision of prescriptive practice during the state of emergency, are exempt from the requirement for written guidelines provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The physician holds a current license issued by the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM), that is in good standing

2. The APRN holds a current license issued by BORN, that is in good standing.

3. The collaboration between the physician and APRN is in response to the need to maximize health care provider availability for responding to the State of Emergency.

4. The physician and APRN both consent to the collaboration and to the supervision of the APRN’s prescriptive practice by the physician, and memorialize their consent in a document that acknowledges their consent and specifies the dates of collaboration and supervision of prescriptive practice.

BORIM will refrain from taking disciplinary action against the license of a physician who provides supervision of prescriptive practice of an APRN in the absence of written guidelines provided that the supervision and collaboration conforms to the parameters and requirements of the Commissioner’s Order and this guidance.

BORN will refrain from taking disciplinary action against the license of an APRN who engages in prescriptive practice in the absence of written guidelines provided that the prescriptive practice conforms to the parameters and requirements of the Commissioner’s Order and this guidance.

The Order and this guidance are in effect and shall remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or the Order is rescinded by the Commissioner, whichever shall happen first.