COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

POLICY 2024-01

Modification of Requirements for Temporary Appointments OR PRIVILEGES

in EXIGENT Circumstances

January 25, 2024 (amended May 29, 2025)

The Board of Registration in Medicine requires that, as part of their Qualified Patient Care Assessment Program, health care facilities complete credentialing requirements set forth at 243 CMR 3.05 prior to hiring, appointing, granting privileges to, or associating with a licensed physician. The Board’s regulations at 243 CMR 3.05(1)(a) and (b) build in flexibility in the credentialing requirements for temporary appointments or privileges that are applicable under general circumstances. The purpose of this policy is to create greater flexibility for temporary appointments in exigent circumstances that have the capacity to cause significant disruptions in the delivery of health care in Massachusetts. Towards this end, the Board authorizes the Executive Director to extend time limits and waive components of the requirements at 243 CMR 3.05(1)(a) and (b), upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health that such extensions and waivers are necessary to maintain patient continuity of care and minimize disruptions in the delivery of healthcare.

1. Upon receipt of a written recommendation from the Commissioner, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board Chair, may make modifications to the regulatory requirements, as set forth in paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of this policy, that will apply to:
   1. a health care facility specified in the recommendation that will grant temporary appointments or privileges to physicians, or
   2. any other health care facility in connection solely with a grant of temporary appointment or privileges to physicians who hold an appointment, privileges or association with a health care facility specified in the recommendation, in order to provide care to patients that can no longer be provided at the specified health care facility.
2. A health care facility may grant temporary appointment or privileges to a physician seeking initial staff membership while normal credentialing requirements are performed for up to 180 days in any one year period provided that the health care facility:
   1. maintains on file evidence of:
      1. a valid Massachusetts license, and
      2. a current DEA certificate of registration if the physician will be prescribing controlled substances
   2. obtains within 30 days of granting the temporary appointment or privileges the following items which must also be maintained on file:
      1. a completed application for staff membership
      2. evidence of malpractice insurance
      3. appropriate references
   3. pursues in good faith the full credentialing requirements within 180 days
3. A health care facility may grant temporary appointment or privileges to a physician who is not seeking staff membership for up to 180 days in any one year period provided that the health care facility:
   1. maintains on file evidence of:
      1. a valid Massachusetts license, and
      2. a current DEA certificate of registration if the physician will be prescribing controlled substances
   2. obtains within 30 days of granting the temporary appointment or privileges the following items which must also be maintained on file:
      1. evidence of malpractice insurance
      2. letters of recommendation or references
4. Upon receipt of a written request by a health care facility that meets the requirements in paragraph (1) of this policy, the Executive Director in consultation with the Board Chair or the Commissioner of Public Health may extend the 180 day period for temporary appointments as set in paragraphs (2) and (3) for an additional period as may be necessary to maintain patient continuity of care and minimize disruptions in the delivery of healthcare.