

New Mexico Medical Board Announcements Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

Inappropriate and Questionable Prescribing/Stockpiling of Potential COVID-19 Treatment Drugs

[- PDF](#)

Temporary Federal Disaster MD Application

Federal Emergency Licensure allows for fewer documents to be provided at the onset of the application process to receive a temporary license to practice medicine in the State of New Mexico during a declared emergency. For more information, please refer to our [Temporary Licensure Guidelines and Federal Disaster MD Application](#).

Conversion from a Full Unrestricted Physician (MD) Application to a Federal Disaster Temporary Physician (MD) Application for Temporary Licensure

[Application and Submission Info](#)

Practice Closures During Pandemic

[Clarification on Public Health Orders 1 and 2](#)

To: NMMB Licensees and Applicants

From: Dr. Steve Jenkusky Chairman NMMB and Sondra Frank, Executive Director NMMB

Re: Licensure Process during Covid-19 Pandemic

Date: March 17, 2020

The New Mexico Medical Board has received inquiries regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic and licensing requirements. We hope what follows is helpful guidance on the functioning of the board during the crisis and our efforts to both facilitate licensure, enhance access to care and protect the public from unqualified practitioners. Public health is our primary concern and ensuring that the state has adequate number of qualified MD physicians and physician assistants remains our priority.

Please be aware of the following points:

1. Per state personnel instructions, our Santa Fe office is closed, but functioning, and staff are either working from home or are in the office with appropriate precautions. Staff can be accessed by email and we are responding to messages left on voice mail. Please send documents to the board via mail or email. License applications are being processed.
2. Licensure is required for all practitioners caring for patients in New Mexico during the pandemic emergency. The Board is utilizing all its available personnel and resources to focus on quickly licensing individuals applying for a medical license in the state of New Mexico.
3. The NMMB already has in place telemedicine application processes that are simple and quickly processed. The NMMB encourages applicants to access this licensure type if the focus of the medical practice will remain telemedicine in nature.
4. The NMMB has recently issued guidance to tele-practitioners effectively guiding telemedicine practice to be more accessible and easier to administer by relaxing certain strictures inherent in the ethical codes while at the same time ensuring safe practice. Please read through our guidance issued March 16, 2020 titled "Guidance for Providing Patient Care by Electronic Means During A Crisis." See also, NMAC 16.10.8 of the NMMB's regulations.
5. Additionally, the Board's Federal Emergency Licensure provision will aid quicker licensing. This regulation, NMAC 16.10.2.16, has been activated with the issuance of the declared disaster by FEMA for the entire United States and its territories. This regulation provides for a temporary license to those individuals who can provide proof of medical school graduation, passing the USMLE tests, and two years of post-graduate training (NMAC 16.10.2.9 Section A requirements) but temporarily waives the remaining required documentation including work verification, recommendation letters, specialty board certifications and some licensure verification (NMAC 16.10.2.9 Section B requirements). A Federal Emergency License applicant must certify that he/she cannot obtain the Section B required documentation or they will be delayed due to the declared disaster. This licensure type is temporary, terminating for not less than three months or more than fifteen months.
6. Finally, for renewal of licenses, should providers find they are unable to complete required 75 CME's for renewal, an extension of 3 months can be provided upon request for an "emergency deferral." Licensees must petition the board prior to the renewal date for an "emergency deferral" if they find they cannot obtain the proper amount of CMEs.

Please email us with any additional questions or concerns. nmbme@state.nm.us

- **Contact Us**
- Main Office: (505) 476-7220 | In-State Toll Free: (800) 945-5845

Continuing Medical Education:

In the event that you are unable to get the required CME for renewal because a CME Course has been canceled because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, you may request an "Emergency Deferral" of the CME requirement.

Pursuant to **16.10.4.15 NMAC**: "EMERGENCY DEFERRAL: A physician unable to fulfill the CME requirements prior to the date of license expiration may apply to the board for an emergency deferral of the requirements by submitting a request in writing no later than July 1 of the renewal year. A designee of the board may grant a deferral of up to 90 days."