

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD ORDER ISSUING TEMPORARY WAIVERS
AS TO CERTAIN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT REGULATIONS IN RESPONSE TO
HURRICANE HELENE**

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2024, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, the Governor identified the following counties and territories as subject to the declaration: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 318 entitled Meeting North Carolina’s Response and Recovery Needs in Support of Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 318 authorized health care licensing boards to waive or modify enforcement of any legal or regulatory constraint in order to increase the pool of professional health care workers and provide flexibility to meet the needs of the relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Medical Board (“Board”) is an agency of the State of North Carolina organized under Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is charged with the responsibility for licensing and regulating physicians and physician assistants (“PA”), in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide as much flexibility for health care institutions to meet the needs of Hurricane Helene relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Board to take this action; and

WHEREAS, the Board discussed this subject at length at an emergency meeting held on October 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board has authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-12.5 to take this action in order to permit the provision of emergency health services to the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. PAs practicing in the affected areas are not required to file an intent to practice form pursuant to Board rule 21 NCAC 32 .0203. In addition, PAs practicing in the affected areas are not required to designate a supervising physician. Prior to practicing in the affected areas pursuant to this Order, PAs shall notify the Board of their participation in relief efforts pursuant to this Order by emailing the Board at supervisory@ncmedboard.org. The email shall be a simple statement notifying the Board of the PA's name and license number and their intent to practice in the affected areas. No other information will be required.

2. PAs practicing in the affected areas shall not be required to maintain a written a statement of supervisory arrangements or prescriptive authority pursuant to 21 NCAC 32 .0212(1) and (2) and .0213. Board rules 21 NCAC 32S .0212(3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) remain in effect.

3. PAs practicing in the affected areas are not required to conduct quality improvement meetings pursuant to 21 NCAC 32 .0213(e), but are encouraged to consult with a supervising or other physician, and make appropriate referrals, when clinical conditions require as much.

4. All fees related to the implementation of this Order are waived.

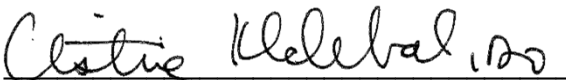
5. Only those PAs who are in good standing shall be eligible to practice in the affected areas pursuant to this Order. Good standing shall mean that the PA is not under subject to a public disciplinary action or active investigation by any licensing board of any jurisdiction.

6. The Order is only applicable to the affected counties listed in this Order and the declared state of emergency.

7. This Order is effective only to March 1, 2025, or as extended by Executive Order.

This the 23rd day of October, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: 
Christine M. Khandelwal, D.O., MHPE
President