



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF NURSING PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, by Proclamation dated March 14, 2020, issued by Tate Reeves, Governor of the state of Mississippi, a state of emergency was declared pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-11, in order to address the high risk for an outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Proclamation has invoked the emergency powers of the Governor pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-11 (c)(1) to temporarily suspend or modify any rule or regulation of a state agency which would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Board of Nursing, as an agency of the state of Mississippi wishes to comply with the Governor's proclamation and take those steps necessary to address access to needed health care to people in the state of Mississippi during this time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that in order to receive health care, many patients are required to travel long distances both in-state and out-of-state to see their healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, Part 2840, Chapter 1, Rule 1.5, Prescribing Controlled Substances and Medications by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) provides that no APRN shall prescribe any medication without a good faith agreement subsequent to examination and medical indication thereof; and

WHEREAS, Part 2840, Chapter 1, Rule 1.5, also provides APRNs perform point of service drug testing prior to the initial prescription of benzodiazepines and/or to each prescription of Schedule II opioids for treatment of chronic non-cancerous and/or non-terminal pain; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that enforcement of Rule 1.5 as stated herein may result in unnecessary patient travel which may increase possible risks to patients during the state of emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, until action is taken by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to lift the declared emergency, the Mississippi State Board of Nursing authorizes all APRNs with controlled substance prescriptive authority to utilize telehealth so as to avoid unnecessary patient travel both in-state and out of state; and in so doing, the Board will not enforce any statute, rule or regulation that

would require APRNs to personally examine patients prior to the issuance of a prescription or order the administration of medications, including controlled substances.

FURTHER, until action is taken by the Governor to lift the state of emergency, out-of-state APRNs may utilize telehealth when treating patients in Mississippi without the necessity of securing a license to practice in this State, provided the out-of-state APRN holds an unrestricted license to practice in the State in which the APRN practices and currently is not the subject of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding and so advises in writing to the Board.

FURTHER, every APRN shall access the Prescription Monitoring Program when a controlled substance prescription is issued. However, point of service drug testing shall not be required.

FURTHER, every APRN who is currently not licensed in the State of Mississippi and who wishes to practice in this State shall complete the disastrous/emergency waiver found on the Board of Nursing's website.

FURTHER, every APRN shall conduct an evaluation of the patient's current condition and document the appropriate medical indication for the prescription.

FURTHER, except as specifically stated herein, all other regulations remain in full force and effect.

SO ORDERED AND APPROVED by the Mississippi State Board of Nursing, this the 16th day of March 2020.



MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING

By: Phyllis P. Johnson
Phyllis P. Johnson, MSN, RN, FNP-BC
Executive