
COVID-19 Pandemic: WV's Regulatory Response

American Association of Physicians
of Indian Origin

May 30, 2020



West Virginia
Board of
Medicine

Kishore K. Challa, MD
Board President

State of Emergency

- Gov. Jim Justice declares State of Emergency on March 16.
- Indefinite time frame.
- WVBOM begins immediate, coordinated effort to modify state rules and regulations.
- Priorities:
 - Protect the public
 - Provide regulatory relief to front-line practitioners



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Executive Orders

- Goal – surge medical response
- Initial orders suspend provisions of Medical Practice Act and PA Practice Act.
- Provide regulatory flexibility for Board of Medicine
 - ❑ State health officer is ex-officio member of Board



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Emergency Rule: Registration to Practice

- 11 CSR 14, effective March 26
- Physicians and PAs with unrestricted licensure in another state
- Certain inactive or expired status WV physicians
- Certain expired status WV PAs



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Emergency Rule: Registration to Practice

- Out-of-state MDs and PAs:
 - Valid, unrestricted license
 - No pending/active complaint, investigation, Consent Order, Board Order or pending disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction
 - No license surrender or revocation

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Emergency Rule: Registration to Practice

- Inactive/Retired MDs and PAs:
 - In good standing at time
 - Clinical practice within last 5 years
 - No active license in another state
 - No disciplinary proceedings (as above)



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Emergency Rule: Results to Date

- As of 5/25, Board licensure staff have processed:
 - 929 emergency MD registrants
 - 86 emergency PA registrants
- Represents cross-section of U.S.



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Other Changes

- Streamlined process for PA Practice Agreements and Practice Notifications
- Provisions of 7 Board rules temporarily suspended
 - Facilitate license and renewal extensions
 - Board organization and meetings
 - Continuing education



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Licensure and Registration: Extensions Granted

- Renewals extended to Sept. 30 for:
 - Physicians last names A-L
 - Controlled Substances Dispensing
 - Educational Permits
 - PLLCs
 - Medical Corporations – rolling extensions upon request



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Telemedicine: Regulations Relaxed

- Prohibition on establishing provider-patient relationship via audio-only is temporarily suspended
- Must still satisfy the standard of care for a particular patient presentation
- Intended for routine patient encounters



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Telemedicine: Reimbursement

- WVBOM advocated for:
 - Payment parity for audio-only telehealth services with video telehealth services
 - Helps patients in WV without smart devices (I-phones) or those in rural areas without reliable broadband



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Telemedicine: Reimbursement

- WV Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito sponsored legislation
- West Virginia's populations among the most vulnerable to COVID-19
- Increases patient access to care
- CMS increased payment range from \$14-\$41 to \$46-\$110 – retroactive to March 1



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COVID-19 Response

- Board offices remain closed to public
- WVBOM website (wvbom.wv.gov)
 - [CDC Information for Providers](#)
 - [WVDHHR COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - [WV Local Health Departments](#)
 - [DEA COVID-19 Resources](#)



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Contact Information

Kishore K. Challa, MD
Board President

(304) 558-2921

kccardio@yahoo.com



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