



**WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

**MAC WARNER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

**eFILED**

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Office of West Virginia  
Secretary Of State

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

AGENCY: Medicine TITLE-SERIES: 11-14  
RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No  
RULE NAME: Registration to Practice During Declared State of  
Emergency  
CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code §§ 30-3-7(a)(1), 30-3E-3(a)  
COMMENTS LIMITED TO:  
Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 07/29/2021 4:30 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Mark A. Spangler, Executive Director  
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Charleston, West Virginia 25311  
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PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

Series fourteen establishes the Board of Medicine emergency registration process: (a) to allow physicians and physician assistants licensed in another state to provide medical care in West Virginia under special provisions during the period of a declared emergency; and (b) to allow physicians and physician assistants who currently hold either an inactive or expired status West Virginia license to provide medical care in West Virginia under special provisions during the period of a declared emergency. The rule establishes a registration process, articulates eligibility criteria and authorizes practice for registrants during a declared state of emergency.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN THE RULE AND A STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE:

The proposed amendments to 11 CSR 14 establish a more definite expiration date for emergency registrations and includes other minor modifications in response to two bills passed during the 2021 regular legislative session. House Bill 2024 creates an interstate telehealth registration process for certain healthcare professions, including medical doctors, podiatric physicians and physician assistants. An interstate telehealth registration is a streamlined regulatory process that confers authorization upon the registrant to provide telehealth services, within the registrants scope of practice, to patients located in West Virginia. Senate Bill 714 modifies The Physician Assistants Practice Act, including a phasing out of practice agreements with collaborating physicians in favor of practice notifications with health care entities. The proposed amendments to this rule modify the expiration date for emergency registrations, references the new interstate telehealth registration and eliminates the reference to practice agreements in conformity with SB 714.

Section two was amended to provide that an emergency registration that is issued to an out of state physician or physician assistant will expire sixty days after issuance or five business days after a declared state of emergency terminates, whichever is sooner. Thereafter, the emergency registrant must hold an active status West Virginia medical license or an interstate telehealth registration to practice medicine to West Virginia patients.

Section three was amended to provide that an emergency registration that is issued to a retired or inactive physician or physician assistant will expire sixty days after issuance or five business days after a declared state of emergency terminates, whichever is sooner. Thereafter, the emergency registrant must hold an active status West Virginia medical license or an interstate telehealth registration to practice medicine to West Virginia patients.

Section four was modified to include language indicating that the Board will provide notification of registration expiration to the registrant via email.

Section five was modified to eliminate the reference to a practice agreement and includes a non-substantive wording modification.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

None.

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

None.

C. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

None.

D. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2021 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2022 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0	0	0
Personal Services	0	0	0
Current Expenses	0	0	0
Repairs and Alterations	0	0	0
Assets	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0	0	0

E. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

N/A.

**BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

**Yes**

**Mark A Spangler -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.**

TITLE 11  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

SERIES 14  
REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE DURING DECLARED  
STATE OF EMERGENCY

**§11-14-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes procedures for authorizing physicians and physician assistants who do not hold an active status medical license to practice in West Virginia during a declared state of emergency.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§ 30-3-7(a)(1) and 30-3E-3(a).

1.3. ~~Filing Date. -- May 19, 2021.~~

1.4. ~~Effective Date. -- June 1, 2021.~~

1.5. Sunset Provision -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect upon August 1, ~~2026~~ 2027.

**§11-14-2. Registration for Out-Of-State Physicians and Physician Assistants to Practice in West Virginia During Declared State of Emergency.**

2.1. In the event of an emergency declared by the Governor of West Virginia, the Board shall allow physicians and/or physician assistants licensed in another state to provide medical care in West Virginia under special provisions during the period of the declared emergency, subject to such limitations and conditions as the Governor may prescribe. To be eligible to practice pursuant to this rule, the physician or physician assistant must register with the Board.

2.2. The out-of-state physician and/or physician assistant shall submit to the Board the following information on a form provided by the Board to establish eligibility for registration to practice during a declared state of emergency:

2.2.1. Verification of a valid, permanent, current, and unrestricted license to practice in another state;

2.2.2. Verification that the physician or physician assistant is not the subject of a pending or active complaint, investigation, Consent Order, Board Order or pending disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction;

2.2.3. Verification that the physician or physician assistant has not surrendered a license while under investigation or had a license revoked in any jurisdiction, unless the revocation was subsequently withdrawn or overturned;

2.2.4. Date of birth and current contact information, including home address and valid email address; and

2.2.5. Current federal or state photo identification, i.e., driver license or passport.

2.3. Registration with the Board as an out-of-state physician and/or physician assistant authorized to practice in West Virginia during a declared state of emergency does not require the payment of any fee.

2.4. ~~The out-of-state physician and/or physician assistant shall not practice in West Virginia under the special emergency provisions beyond the termination date of the emergency. Practice in West Virginia beyond the termination date of the declared emergency requires licensure through the Board. Emergency registrations for out of state physicians and physician assistants shall expire sixty days after issuance or five business days after a declared state of emergency terminates, whichever is sooner. Thereafter, the emergency registrant must hold an active West Virginia license or interstate telehealth registration to practice medicine and surgery to patients in West Virginia.~~

**§11-14-3. Registration for Inactive and Retired West Virginia Physicians and Physician Assistants to Practice in West Virginia During Declared State of Emergency.**

3.1. In the event of an emergency declared by the Governor of West Virginia, the Board shall allow an inactive and/or retired physician or physician assistant who currently holds an inactive or expired status West Virginia medical license or physician assistant license to provide medical care in West Virginia under special provisions during the period of the declared emergency, subject to such limitations and conditions as the Governor may prescribe. To be eligible to practice pursuant to this rule, the physician or physician assistant must register with the Board.

3.2. To be eligible for registration to practice under this section, the physician or physician assistant must:

3.2.1. Have had an active clinical practice within the last five years;

3.2.2. No longer hold an active status medical or physician assistant license in any state;

3.2.3. Not have surrendered a medical license or physician assistant license while under investigation or had a license revoked in any jurisdiction, unless the revocation was subsequently withdrawn or overturned; and

3.2.4. Have been in good standing at the time the physician's West Virginia medical license or the physician assistant's West Virginia physician assistant license became inactive or expired.

3.3. The physician or physician assistant shall submit to the Board the following information on a form provided by the Board:

3.3.1. Verification that the inactive or retired West Virginia physician or physician assistant is not the subject of a pending or active complaint, investigation, Consent Order, Board Order or pending disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction;

3.3.2. Verification that the physician or physician assistant has not surrendered a license while under investigation or had a license revoked in any jurisdiction, unless the revocation was subsequently withdrawn or overturned;

3.3.3. Date of birth and current contact information, including home address and valid email address; and

3.3.4. Current federal or state photo identification, i.e., driver license or passport.

3.4. Registration with the Board does not require the payment of any fee.

3.5. ~~The inactive or retired physician or physician assistant shall not practice in West Virginia under the special emergency provisions beyond the termination date of the emergency. Practice in West Virginia beyond the termination date of the declared emergency requires reinstatement or reactivation of licensure through the Board.~~ Emergency registrations for retired or inactive physicians and physician assistants shall expire sixty days after issuance or five business days after a declared state of emergency terminates, whichever is sooner. Thereafter, the emergency registrant must hold an active West Virginia license or interstate telehealth registration to practice medicine and surgery to patients in West Virginia.

#### **§11-14-4. Required Records.**

4.1. The Board shall provide each physician and physician assistant registered to practice during a declared state of emergency written verification of registration and registration expiration via email.

4.2. The Board shall maintain a list of all physicians and physician assistants who are registered to practice in West Virginia during a declared state of emergency pursuant to the provisions of this rule.

#### **§11-14-5. Professional Conduct, Authorization Denial, Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures.**

5.1. The Board shall deny a registration to practice during a declared state of emergency to any physician or physician assistant who is ineligible based upon the criteria set forth in this rule or additional criteria established by the Governor during the declared state of emergency.

5.2. All physicians and physician assistants who are registered to practice pursuant to this rule are required to meet the professional conduct standards and requirements required of licensed physicians and licensed physician assistants in West Virginia.

5.3. All physician assistants who are registered to practice pursuant to this rule must practice pursuant to an ~~authorized Practice Agreement~~ or active Practice Notification pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-3E-1 *et seq.*, and all applicable legislative rules.

5.4. The Board may rescind a registration granted pursuant to this rule for conduct which is equivalent to any of the grounds cited for the discipline in W. Va. Code §30-3-14(c), section 12 of the Board's rule 11 CSR 1A, and/or section 21 of 11 CSR 1B. In its discretion, the Board may also report or refer any complaint or allegation of professional misconduct to ~~a physician or physician assistant's~~ an emergency registrant's out of state licensing board.