March 25, 2020

Pennsylvania Waives Certain Licensing Requirements to Allow Retired Health Care Professionals to Practice During Coronavirus Emergency

In order to increase the number of health care practitioners available to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and to ensure continuity of patient care and services, Governor Wolf has granted the Department of State's request to suspend some licensing and regulatory requirements that will allow individuals in the healthcare field who have inactive licenses or have allowed their Pennsylvania license to expire, to seek reactivation and immediately resume work within their scope of practice, provided their inactive or expired license is/was in good standing.

The Department of State Bureau of Occupational and Occupational Affairs (BPOA), requested suspensions of several regulatory/statutory provisions related to the **State Board of Medicine, State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, State Board of Nursing** and **State Board of Pharmacy** for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

- The Department requested these suspensions to allow retired practitioners to re-enter the field more easily and without paying reactivation fees. These requests were granted by the Governor.
- Nurse-Midwives are not included in this request, because this suspension has already been granted.

For all licensing-related inquiries, please use the email addresses found here: Board Contact Info

State Board of Medicine

- MD licensees who are in active/retired status for less than four years can submit a reactivation application with a suspension of the continuing education requirements.
    - This allows these practitioners to become active unrestricted until Dec. 31, 2020.
    - If a licensee wishes to continue practicing beyond Dec. 31, 2020, the licensee would need to renew the active-unrestricted license and meet all current requirements at that time
    - This applies to Medical Doctors (MDs)
    - MDs who are expired/inactive for less than four years; and certain allied health professions integral to providing care during this state of emergency who are expired/inactive for less than four years, may apply

for reactivation of their licenses with a suspension of their respective CE requirements.

- This would allow those individuals to become active until December 31, 2020.
- This applies to the following licensees:
  - Medical Doctors
  - Physician Assistants
  - Respiratory Therapists
  - Perfusionists

- For reactivations granted to the above professionals, all reactivation fees for the licensees are suspended by the Governor.

State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

- DO licensees who are in active/retired status for less than four years can submit a reactivation application with a suspension of the continuing education requirements.
  - This allows these practitioners to become active unrestricted until Oct. 31, 2020.
  - If a licensee wishes to continue practicing beyond Oct. 31, 2020, the licensee would need to renew the active-unrestricted license and meet all current requirements at that time
  - This applies to Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs)
- DOs who are expired/inactive for less than four years; and certain allied health professions integral to providing care during this state of emergency who are expired/inactive for less than four years, may apply for reactivation of their licenses with a suspension of their respective CE requirements.
  - This would allow those individuals to become active until October 31, 2020.
  - This applies to the following licensees:
    - Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine
    - Physician Assistants
    - Respiratory Therapists
    - Perfusionists
  - For reactivations granted to the above professionals, all reactivation fees for the licensees are suspended by the Governor.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

State Board of Nursing

- Registered Nurses (RNs), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) who are expired/inactive for less than five years may apply for reactivation of their licenses with a suspension of the continuing education requirements.
- For reactivations granted to the above professionals, all reactivation fees for the licensees are suspended by the Governor.

State Board of Pharmacy

- Pharmacists who are expired/inactive for less than four years may apply for reactivation of their licenses with a suspension of the continuing education requirements.
- For reactivations granted to the above professionals, all reactivation fees for the licensees are suspended by the Governor.