The State of Maryland

Executive Department

ORDER

OF THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

NUMBER 20-03-19-03

AUGMENTING THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, A state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 16, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency continue to exist;

WHEREAS, Emergency medical services providers are needed to respond to the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency;

WHEREAS, To respond to the catastrophic health emergency, licensing, certification, and credentialing of emergency medical services providers must be modified to expand the practice capabilities, permissions, and authorizations of those who already hold a Maryland license and those who are licensed or certified in other states;

WHEREAS, To expand such practice capabilities, permissions, and authorizations, and protect the public health, welfare, and safety, it is necessary to suspend certain State and local statutes, rules, and regulations regarding licensing, certification, and credentialing of emergency medical services providers;

WHEREAS, It is necessary that emergency medical services providers that hold licenses, certifications, or other permits issued by other states and that demonstrate the meeting of qualifications for professional, mechanical, or other skills be deemed licensed, certified, or permitted in Maryland to render aid during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that emergency medical services providers be authorized to perform acts, tasks, or functions while supervised by health care practitioners licensed in Maryland during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE STATE, DO HEREBY ORDER:

I. After providing notice to the Governor, and subject to Sec. II of this Order, the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (the "Executive Director") and chairperson of the State Emergency Medical Services Board (the "Chairperson") may suspend the effect of any provision of §§ 13-515, 13-516, or 13-517 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code ("ED"), or of Title 30 of the Code of Maryland Regulations, upon a finding that such suspension will:

   a. Not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety;

   b. Augment the emergency medical services workforce; and

   c. Improve the response to the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency.

II. The suspension of a provision of ED § 13-516 shall be:

   a. Clinically appropriate; and

   b. Necessary to provide services relating to:

      i. The dispensing or administration of medications, immunizations, intravenous solutions, or drugs; or

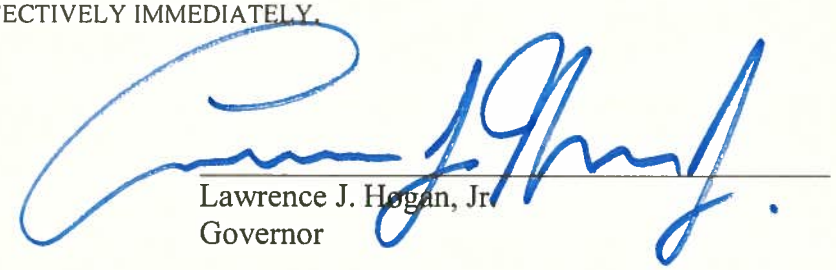
      ii. The evaluation, screening, and treatment of patients.

III. The Executive Director and Chairperson may issue additional, revised, or supplemental procedures or protocols concerning licensure, certification, or scope of practice as necessary to appropriately respond to the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency.

IV. This Order remains effective until the state of emergency has been terminated and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

V. The effect of any statute, rule, or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision inconsistent with this order is hereby suspended.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 19TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY.



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor