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This letter contains important information for Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), Physician Assistants (PAs), and physicians about some of the extraordinary measures the State of New Jersey is implementing to expand our healthcare system's capacity to meet the increased demand for health care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, Executive Order No. 112, issued by Governor Murphy on April 1, 2020, and a corresponding Administrative Order issued by the Division of Consumer Affairs on April 3, 2020, suspend certain restrictions on the scope of practice for APNs and PAs during the state of emergency and public health emergency declared on March 9, 2020. Under these emergency orders, APNs and PAs temporarily will be able to practice with greater autonomy, including independent authority to prescribe controlled dangerous substances (CDS) when appropriate.

Effective immediately, APNs are **NOT** required to:

- a. enter into a joint protocol with a collaborating physician (N.J.S.A. 45:11-49 and N.J.A.C. 13:37-8.1);
- b. include the name, address, and telephone number of a collaborating physician on prescriptions or orders (N.J.S.A. 45:11-49, and N.J.A.C. 13:37-7.9(a) and (d)8);
- c. review patient charts and records with their collaborating physician (N.J.S.A. 45:11-49); or
- d. obtain the authorization or written approval from a collaborating physician to dispense narcotics for maintenance treatment or detoxification treatment, or to determine the medical necessity for services for treatment of a substance use disorder (N.J.S.A. 45:11-49.3).

Effective immediately, PAs are **NOT** required to:

- a. be supervised by a physician (N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.15, -27.16(b), -27.17, and -27.18, N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3, N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.3, N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.11);



- b. enter into a delegation agreement limiting their scope to procedures enumerated in the agreement (N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.16, N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.4, and N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.10);
- c. obtain authorization to order or prescribe CDS (N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.19 and N.J.A.C. 13:35-2B.12); or
- d. limit the assistance provided to a physician in the operating room (N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.16).

Additionally, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:9-27.17 and N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.6, relating to physicians' supervisory responsibility, are suspended, as they apply to both physicians and physician assistants, to the extent that they would otherwise apply.

Despite the relaxation of the above restrictions, APNs and PAs must continue to practice only within the scope of their education, training, experience, and competence.

These waivers may remain in place for the duration of the state of emergency or the public health emergency, whichever is longer.

As you are undoubtedly aware, New Jersey is deploying every available resource to protect the health of our residents as we work to combat COVID-19. We need the help of our healthcare professionals more than ever, and we thank you for your service.

If you are seeking additional ways to assist in the State's COVID-19 response, we ask that you please consider sharing your contact and professional information with the New Jersey Department of Health through its [volunteer portal](#). By providing your information, you are not committing to deployment, but are enabling the Department of Health to match your practicing skills with areas that need them most. The Department of Health may reach out with more details if your skillset can help in the State's response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Rodríguez
Acting Director
New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs

