



ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD

1401 West Capitol, Suite 340 • Little Rock, AR 72201 • (501) 296-1802 • Fax (501) 296-1972
www.armedicalboard.org

Public Health Emergency Regulatory Suspensions Pursuant to Executive Order 20-06 and 20-16

On March 17, 2020, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-06, ordering state agencies to “identify provisions of any regulatory statute, agency order or rule that in any way prevents, hinders, or delays the agency’s ability to render maximum assistance” to Arkansans during the COVID-19 health emergency. The Order instructed state agencies to identify regulatory statutes, orders, and rules that are hindering or preventing the rapid response necessary to combat the spread of and recovery from COVID-19. The Order requires agencies to identify any such statutes, orders, or rules on its website. Once posted, the statute, rule, or order is deemed suspended for thirty (30) days from the effective date of EO 20-06. On April 13, 2020, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-16, extending the suspension until this emergency subsides.

The Arkansas State Medical Board has identified the following statutes and rules which will prevent, hinder or delay the agency’s ability to license (highlighted sections) for Physician Assistants.

Statute

17-105-102. Qualifications for licensure.

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- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an individual must be licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board before the individual may practice as a physician assistant.
- (b) The board may grant a license as a physician assistant to an applicant who:
- (1) Submits an application on forms approved by the board;
 - (2) Pays the appropriate fees as determined by the board;
 - (3) Has successfully completed an educational program for physician assistants or surgeon assistants accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or by its successor agency and has passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants;
 - (4) Certifies that he or she is mentally and physically able to engage safely in practice as a physician assistant;
 - (5) Has no licensure, certification, or registration as a physician assistant under current discipline, revocation, suspension, or probation for cause resulting from the applicant’s practice as a physician assistant, unless the board considers the condition and agrees to licensure;
 - (6) [Repealed.]
 - (7) Submits to the board any other information the board deems necessary to evaluate the applicant’s qualifications;
 - (8) Has been approved by the board;
 - (9) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and
 - (10) After July 1, 1999, has at least a bachelor’s degree in some field of study from a regionally accredited college or university, unless the applicant has:
 - (A) Prior service as a military corpsman and is a graduate of a physician assistant education program recognized by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or the applicant is currently certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants;
 - (B) Was serving as a physician assistant in a federal facility located in the State of Arkansas on or after July 1, 1999, and who is a graduate of a physician assistant education program recognized by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;
 - (C) Was licensed in good standing on June 30, 1999, by the board; or
 - (D) Was enrolled on or before July 1, 1999, in a physician assistant program recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.



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Rules Rule No. 24, Section 2

1. A physician assistant must possess a license issued by the Arkansas State Medical Board prior to engaging in such occupation.
2. To obtain a license from the Arkansas State Medical Board the physician assistant must do the following:
 - a. Answer all questions to include the providing of all documentation requested on an application form as provided by the Arkansas State Medical Board;
 - b. Pay the required fee for licensure as delineated elsewhere in this regulation;
 - c. Provide proof of successful completion of Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, as administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants;
 - d. Certify and provide such documentation, as the Arkansas State Medical Board should require that the applicant is mentally and physically able to engage safely in the role as a physician assistant;
 - e. Certify that the applicant is not under any current discipline, revocation, suspension or probation or investigation from any other licensing board;
 - f. Provide letters of recommendation as to quality of practice history;
 - g. The applicant should be at least 21 years of age;
 - h. Show proof of graduation with a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university or prior service as a military corpsman;
 - i. Provide proof of graduation of a physician assistant education program recognized by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or by its successor agency and has passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.
 - j. The submission and approval by the Board of a delegation agreement delineating the scope of practice that the physician assistant will engage in, the program of evaluation and supervision by the supervising physician;
 - k. The receipt and approval by the Arkansas State Medical Board of the supervising physician for the physician assistant on such forms as issued by the Arkansas State Medical Board;