

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHARMACY

BOARD ISSUES WAIVER OF CERTAIN PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT REQUIREMENTS TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING AND AFTER HURRICANE FLORENCE

Today (September 13, 2018), the Board of Pharmacy exercised its authority under G.S. 90-85.25(a) to waive certain requirements of the North Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act to facilitate the provision of patient care during and after Hurricane Florence.

As a lead-in to the policy, pharmacists should note that Board staff and members certainly are aware of the significant public health issues that will be created by this storm and its aftermath. Board staff and members are aware of the often superhuman efforts that pharmacists and pharmacies expend to ensure that patient needs are being met as well as possible under these circumstances. Be assured. Board members and staff support your efforts to ensure that patient needs are being met. Deviations from the letter of pharmacy law or rule are almost certainly going to be necessary to do so. Board members and staff understand this and know that you will use your compassion and good judgment to deal with the crisis.

The Board's policy specifically authorizes, for the duration of the declared emergency, any pharmacist or nationally-certified pharmacy technician who has a license in good standing in another state to practice in the location of the state of emergency without being licensed by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, so long as a minimal notice requirement is satisfied.

The Board's policy also specifically authorizes existing permits, as necessary, to operate in a temporary location without obtaining any sort of additional permit, again so long as a minimal notice requirement is satisfied.

The policy also provides for waivers of other deviations from the Pharmacy Practice Act and rules, subject to notification to, and approval by, the Executive Director.

The policy, which specifies the minimal notice requirements mentioned above, is found here: <http://www.ncbop.org/PDF/NCBOPHurricanePolicy4814-4812-3762.pdf>. The referenced notification email address – emergency@ncbop.org – is already operative.

