

Nurse Practitioner Waiver Information

On October 5, 2024, Governor Roy Cooper issued [Executive Order 318](#) declaring a State of Emergency following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. In this Order, the Governor recognized the impact on the health care systems in this part of the State and the need for expanding the capacity of the health care providers to this region. Governor Cooper ordered professional health care licensure boards to waive or modify legal and regulatory constraints to specifically those providers not licensed in NC but licensed elsewhere and providers who hold inactive or retired licenses.

On October 9, 2024, during an emergency called meeting, the Joint Sub Committee (JSC) comprised of members of the NCBON and North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB) voted to waive certain requirements for NPs practicing in WNC in direct response to Executive Order 318. For a limited time through December 31, 2024, the JSC recommended waiving the requirement for a supervising physician, quality improvement meetings, collaborative practice agreements, refresher programs, and fees for those eligible NPs practicing in the named affected counties in WNC. On October 10, 2024, the NCBON, during a called emergency meeting, approved the JSC Recommendations. On October 14, 2024, the NCMB, during a called emergency meeting, approved the JSC Recommendations.

If you **currently have an approval to practice in NC** as a Nurse Practitioner and would like to work/volunteer in WNC utilizing the waiver, you will need to email aprnpractice@ncbon.com with your name, approval number, certification, and locations(s) in WNC you anticipate practicing. NCBON Staff will then add language to your individual verification page on the NCBON website indicating your ability to practice without the supervising physician requirement in the specified counties.

If you are **Inactive (reinstatement)** or **Applying from Another State (endorsement)**, you are required to submit your application for review. Log into the Nurse Portal or, if needed, create an account in the Nurse Portal located at www.ncbon.com to complete the approval to practice or volunteer approval application.

These waivers are only applicable to Nurse Practitioners practicing or volunteering in Western North Carolina in the following counties or territories:

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

If you have specific questions regarding these waivers, please email aprnpractice@ncbon.com.

We thank you for your willingness to serve the patients in Western North Carolina!