

## Coppersmith Briefs

# Arizona Medical and PA Boards Act to Make Licensure Easier for COVID-19

Karen Owens, Coppersmith Brockelman PLC

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On Friday, April 10, the Arizona Medical Board (AMB) announced a series of provisions to remove administrative obstacles to physician practice during the COVID-19 emergency.<sup>1</sup> This set of emergency provisions responded to the mandate from the Arizona Department of Health Services to submit proposals for provisions to make it easier to bring physicians in to help care for patients during the crisis.

### ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD ACTIONS

The AMB publication offers temporary emergency license applications to 4 categories of physician:

1. Out-of-state physicians may apply for temporary licensure using a truncated licensure application. The 3-page application relies heavily on physician answers to questions about his or her history and a set of attestations.
2. MDs with inactive Arizona licenses are eligible for temporary reactivation if they have been on inactive status less than 4 years.
3. Retired MDs who no longer hold any state license can apply for a temporary emergency license if they have been out of practice for 4 years or less.
4. Medical school graduates who have completed 12 months of post-graduate training within the past 6 months can apply for a temporary emergency license.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.azmd.gov/MinutesUploads/Press/MD\\_202004131454\\_4c0b5a80e1df415da9be4178c2d415c8.pdf](https://www.azmd.gov/MinutesUploads/Press/MD_202004131454_4c0b5a80e1df415da9be4178c2d415c8.pdf)  
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The AMB is waiving the **fees and fingerprint requirements** for all temporary emergency medical license applications.

The AMB also has extended the renewal time for current licensees. Arizona licenses with expiration dates between March 1, 202 and September 1, 2020 will have their renewal time frame extended for 6 months.

The AMB states that temporary emergency licenses, once granted, expire after 90 days, or when the State of Emergency is declared to be over, whichever date is first.

#### ACTIONS BY THE ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (ARBOPA)

ARBOPA also has taken steps to allow PAs to support the emergency response:<sup>2</sup>

1. PAs licensed in another state may apply for temporary licensed using an emergency temporary license application. More significantly, the Board is allowing PAs licensed in this manner to practice without physician supervision for the duration of the emergency.
2. PAs with current Arizona licenses who wish to provide care in response to the crisis have the written supervising physician delegation agreement waived during the state of emergency.
3. Recent graduates of Physician Assistant programs may apply for temporary emergency licensure, but must have a signed delegation agreement with an Arizona licensed supervising Physician remains in effect.

ARBOPA also has **waived any fees** for temporary, emergency physician assistant license applications. The Board declared that all temporary physician assistant licenses expire after 180 days, or at the time the state of emergency is declared to be over, whichever happens first.

ARBOPA has not provided any path to licensure for non-practicing PAs, and has not waived any fingerprint requirements.

Neither the AMB nor ARBOPA make any commitment to quick review of these temporary emergency applications. But it is to be hoped that under the circumstances this is understood.

[https://www.azpa.gov/MinutesUploads/Press/PA\\_202004131051\\_dc6938f2bd524398b3d65ecf73725a4d.pdf](https://www.azpa.gov/MinutesUploads/Press/PA_202004131051_dc6938f2bd524398b3d65ecf73725a4d.pdf)  
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The logo for Coppersmith Brockelman Lawyers is centered at the top of the page. It features the name 'COPPERSMITH' above a horizontal line, followed by 'BROCKELMAN' in a larger font, and 'LAWYERS' in a smaller font below. The background of the logo is a dark blue image of a city skyline.

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Karen Owens' practice focuses on health care administrative, regulatory, operations, and litigation matters. She regularly represents health care systems, hospitals, clinics, and other institutions in matters of quality management, medical staff peer review, practitioner credentialing, hospital and medical staff structure, and confidentiality. She also counsels hospitals and health care entities about Medicare certification, state licensure, EMTALA compliance, and many other regulatory matters touching clinical operations.

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