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GOVERNOR RICKETTS HEALTH CARE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

On March 27, 2020, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts issued an executive order waiving certain licensure requirements for health care professionals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Order 20-10 temporarily suspends requirements for the reinstatement of retired health care professionals and the licensure of out-of-state providers, and is in effect until 30 days after the lifting of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Specifically, the Executive Order provides as follows:

- Credentialing requirements under Nebraska's Uniform Credentialing Act are temporarily suspended for out-of-state health care professionals. The requirements are suspended for individuals who are licensed in another U.S. state or territory in good standing free from disciplinary action. Such persons licensed in any of the following areas may work in Nebraska during the state of emergency: advanced practice nursing, emergency medical services, medicine and surgery, mental health practice, nursing, osteopathy, perfusion, pharmacy, psychology, respiratory care, and surgical assisting.
- Individuals formerly licensed in Nebraska whose credentials have expired or changed to inactive status may renew or change to active status without being subject to continuing competency requirements. Temporary reinstatement may occur upon submission of a completed application to the Department.
- License renewal fees and continuing competency requirements are deferred for the following practice areas: medicine and surgery, advanced practice nursing, emergency medical services, mental health, nursing, osteopathy, pharmacy, perfusion, psychology, respiratory care, and surgical assistance.
- Initial licenses for physicians, nurses, and pharmacy-related professions will be processed electronically prior to the receipt of the license fee by the Department.
- Initial license applications for the following will be processed pending the completion of FBI background checks, so long as other licensure requirements are met and state background checks are passed: registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, physical therapists, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, emergency care providers licensed under the Emergency Medical

Services Practice Act, and persons applying to practice a profession authorized to prescribe controlled substances.

- Applicants for licensure as physicians, nurses, and pharmacists are exempt from the requirement that test scores be submitted prior to licensure, and are permitted to obtain time-limited provisional licenses pending successful examination results or the duration of the state of emergency.
- Supervising ratio requirements are waived to permit physicians to have any number of physician assistants under their supervision and without a written agreement with the physician assistants, insofar as determined necessary within the doctors' professional discretion.

The text of the executive order may be found [here](#).

Cline Williams continues to closely monitor legislative, executive, and industry actions related to the health care industry and response to COVID-19. In the meantime, if you have any questions related to these issues or the impact of COVID-19, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Cline Williams Health Law Section.



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