



Frequently Asked Questions on Emergency Order 16 and Related Orders

Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm issued [Emergency Order 16](#) on March 27, 2020, to better position Wisconsin to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The order enables Wisconsin to expand its healthcare workforce more quickly and will give health systems greater flexibility to assign providers to areas with greatest need. The order covers a variety of topics across several professions, and it references several administrative rules.

The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board also issued two orders in response to the public health emergency. [One](#), issued on March 17, 2020, is designed to allow pharmacists to exercise their professional judgment on whether to re-use personal protective equipment (PPE). The [other](#), issued on March 25, 2020, allows pharmacists to dispense outside of licensed pharmacies in the event they need to dispense in mobile clinics, mobile hospitals or other similar facilities that do not have a pharmacy license.

This document is intended to help individuals better understand the orders. However, in the interest of accuracy, we strongly encourage all providers and health care employers to read the actual orders and consult any related administrative rules, as this FAQ document is not, and is not intended to be, a complete resource. It offers general answers that apply in many, but not necessarily all, circumstances.

Reciprocity for Healthcare Providers

Q: If I am a licensed healthcare professional from a different state, can I now work in Wisconsin without a Wisconsin license?

A: Yes. Most providers who have a current unrestricted (unencumbered) license in another state may practice in Wisconsin under EO 16. However, employers must notify the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) that they have hired an out-of-state worker under the provisions of the order within five days, and all providers must apply for a temporary or permanent Wisconsin license within ten days of beginning work in Wisconsin. See page 2 of [EO 16](#) for other conditions.

Q: Do I have to stop practicing after ten days if my temporary or permanent Wisconsin license has not been issued?

A: No. You may continue to practice unless you are notified that your application has been denied.

Q: How do healthcare employers notify DPS that they have hired out-of-state workers?

A: Employers must complete form #EO-2, [available here](#) and submit the form to dps@wisconsin.gov.

Q: How long will temporary licenses be valid?

A: Temporary licenses issued to address the COVID-19 crisis will remain in effect for 30 days after the conclusion of the declared emergency, including any extensions.

Telemedicine and Telehealth

Q: Do I need a Wisconsin license to practice telemedicine or telehealth in Wisconsin during the public health emergency?

A: Physicians with a current, unrestricted license from another state may practice telemedicine without obtaining a temporary or permanent Wisconsin license. See page 3 of [EO 16](#) for other considerations and conditions.

Other providers who wish to provide telehealth services may begin practicing immediately, but they must apply for a temporary or permanent Wisconsin license within ten days of providing telehealth services, and their employers must notify DSPS within five days. These providers may practice telehealth within the scope of their licenses in their home states.

Physician Assistants

Q: Do physician assistants have to notify the Medical Examining Board if they change supervision physicians during the public health emergency?

A: Yes, but they have 40 days instead of 20 days to notify the board.

Q: Can physician assistants delegate tasks during the public health emergency?

A: A physician assistant may delegate tasks, as appropriate and within their scope of their experience, education, training, and capabilities, to another clinically trained health care professional. The physician assistant must have knowledge, based on personal experience with the health care provider, that the delegated task is within the experience, education, training, and capabilities of the provider receiving the delegation.

Q: How many physician assistants can a physician supervise during the public health emergency?

A: A physician may supervise no more than eight physician assistants on duty at one time. There is no limit to the number of physician assistants a physician may supervise over the course of the public health emergency. A physician assistant can also be supervised by multiple physicians while on duty.

Nurses

Q: Normally, nursing students may obtain no more than 50% of their clinical training in simulated environments. Has that changed?

A: Yes. During the public health emergency, the amount of simulated clinical training allowable is neither specified nor restricted. This will enable students who were removed from their clinical placements to complete their clinical educational requirements and stay on course for graduation.

Q: How long can new nursing graduates practice under a temporary license without taking the NCLEX?

A: Temporary nursing licenses will remain valid until either the end of the public health emergency or six months after the availability of the NCLEX, whichever is later.

Q: I would like to help with the COVID-19 public health emergency, but my license has expired. What do I need to do to renew?

A: Adequate nursing staffing is a critical element of the COVID-19 response, and it is essential that nurses seeking to re-enter practice can do so quickly and easily. Therefore, if your license has expired (and it was not surrendered as a result of an investigation or otherwise revoked), you can renew your license by submitting an application and paying a normal license fee. You will not need to pay late fees, complete the nursing workforce survey that is typically required for renewal, provide documentation of employment, or complete the nursing refresher course.

Q: I am a nurse practitioner. Do I still need a collaboration agreement with a physician?

A: For the duration of the public health emergency, nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses do not need a collaboration agreement with a physician to practice. They may practice independently but within the scope of their experience, education, training, and capabilities.

Other Expired Licenses

Q: I am a health care professional who would like to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but my license has expired. Can I renew my license quickly so that I can help?

A: In many cases, yes. If your license expired (but was not suspended, revoked, or surrendered as a result of disciplinary requirements) less than five years ago, you can renew your license without meeting certain standard renewal requirements such as completing continuing education (CE) or paying late fees.

Here is a summary of information for each profession (See EO 16 for exact renewal requirement suspensions):

Physicians: No CE or late fee required to renew

Radiographers: No CE or late fee required to renew

MPSW professions: No CE or late fee required to renew

Psychologists: No CE or late fee required to renew

Pharmacists: No CE or late fee required to renew

Chiropractor: No late fee required to renew

Dentist: No CE, no late fee and no CPR/AED required to renew

Physical Therapist: No CE or late fee required to renew

Opportunities to Serve

Q: I am a former provider interested in returning to practice during the COVID-19 public health emergency. How can I help?

A: The Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR), is a secure, password-protected, web-based volunteer registration system for health care and behavioral health professionals. Individuals who are interested in filling critical response and recovery roles during a major public health emergency, such as the current COVID-19 crisis, can volunteer. Click [here](#) for more information or to register