

Protocol for Vermont-licensed PAs assisting with COVID-19 response as of 3/17/2020

It is likely that the Vermont medical workforce will be significantly disrupted in the coming weeks and months due to clinician infection and quarantine. Thus, it is prudent for leaders to consider contingent clinical staffing, including Vermont's 360+ PAs (physician assistants).

There is currently some confusion amongst PAs and their employers around how to re-deploy PAs for COVID response care if the PA is not already practicing in a role that would likely manage the influx of patients during a pandemic [typically these would be a primary care specialty (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics), urgent care, or emergency medicine settings].

The PAAV has been receiving questions from VT PAs, such as: "I work in a hospital Ortho department and my administration has asked me to be flexible about possibly needing to help out in the Emergency Department. What do I need to do?"

Another issue is if a PA who has a Vermont license but is not currently practicing medicine and doesn't have a delegation agreement with a supervising physician.

Current state (for PAs with a current VT license):

Vermont statute requires PAs with a VT license to submit the [following documentation](#) with original signatures to the BoMP **for each employer and specialty**:

- Employment Contract
- Delegation Agreement
- Primary Supervising Physician Agreement
- Secondary Supervising Physician Agreement(s)

Adding an additional specialty with the same employer or providing any care with a new employer, requires submission of a new set of documentation (originals with signatures) for each specialty and/or employer:

- Employment Contract
- Delegation Agreement
- Primary Supervising Physician Agreement
- Secondary Supervising Physician Agreement(s)

Governor Scott's Emergency Declaration No 01-20 does not specifically address relaxation of PA licensure requirements for Vermont PAs, though it may be possible for such action to be undertaken by the Department of Health.

The PA Academy of Vermont asks that the Board of Medical Practice be authorized to issue a temporary license or suspend or waive the requirements for submission of the abovementioned practice-level paperwork for Vermont licensed PAs during a state of emergency.

Sincerely,

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