



Notice of Adoption of Emergency Regulation to the Practice of Pharmacy in The Regulations of the Board of Pharmacy

Emergency Regulations - FAQ

April 2020

1. What is the purpose of the emergency regulations? What will this regulation do?

On March 27, 2020, the Board adopted and finds that an emergency exists and that the emergency regulation is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

Licenses under AS 08.80 are experiencing increased workloads as patients request medications in amounts sufficient to avoid frequent trips to a pharmacy. At the same time, licensed facilities are experiencing staffing shortages due to illness, child care obligations, and pre-planned PTO. These regulations will alleviate the strain by:

- Increasing capacity by expanding the tasks which a pharmacy technician who holds a national certification may perform;
- Allowing a cashier or bookkeeper to work in a pharmacy without being licensed as a pharmacy technician;
- Decreasing unnecessary administrative requirements;
- Increasing the ranks of licensees who may provide immunizations during the emergency by removing the requirement to obtain CPR certification;
- Streamlining application and renewal requirements;
- Expanding shared pharmacy service functions;
- Clarifying pharmacists and pharmacist interns may administer drugs pursuant to a prescription drug order;
- Allowing for temporary relocations during the emergency without a need to apply for a new and separate license; and
- Allowing the distribution, if insurance allows, of sufficient medication to avoid forcing patients to make multiple return trips.

2. What are the costs to comply with the emergency regulations?

None known.

3. When will the emergency regulations be effective?

The emergency regulations took effect on **April 3, 2020**, and will expire **July 31, 2020** (120 days) unless made permanent by the Board. The Board intends to make the emergency regulations permanent.

This emergency regulation is entering a public comment period. The Board encourages all licensees and interested parties to comment on this emergency regulation. After public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration.

After Board action, and no changes made to the original emergency regulations, the permanent regulations goes to Dept. of Law (DOL) for final review and forwarded to the Lt. Governor for filing before the expiration date of the emergency regulations.

However, after Board action, and if changes were made to the original emergency regulations, the adopted amended emergency regulations goes to DOL for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves the changes made to the original emergency regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Permanent regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.