

Texas Medical Board (TMB) Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQs) Regarding Supervision During
Texas Disaster Declaration for COVID-19 Pandemic

***Disclaimer – The COVID-19 Disaster is a fluid and rapidly evolving situation. Please check these FAQs often as, events may warrant frequent updates.**

April 7, 2020

1. What has been waived by the Governor?

The Governor has waived certain laws and rules that relate to the supervision of PAs and APRNs. ([See announcement.](#)) For the duration of the Governor’s disaster declaration, physicians and their delegates may establish and maintain supervisory relationships with increased flexibility in order to more effectively respond to the COVID-19 emergency. Specifically, for the duration of the disaster declaration, the limit on the number of prescriptive delegates has been lifted and supervisory relationships do not need to be in writing or registered with the TMB.

2. I am a PA or an APRN: Do I have to register my delegating physician online with the TMB during the disaster declaration?

No. The PAs, APRNs, and their delegating supervising physicians do not need to register the delegation relationship. During this disaster declaration, supervision will work similarly to how it currently works in a facility-based practice setting.

3. Does the prescriptive authority agreement have to be in writing?

No, during the disaster declaration a verbal agreement between physician and delegate is sufficient to establish and maintain the relationship. Please note though, if the relationship continues beyond the disaster declaration, it

will be subject to standard requirements such as maintaining a written prescriptive authority agreement and registering the relationship through the TMB website.

4. I am a physician. How many PAs and APRNs can I delegate prescriptive authority to during the COVID-19 disaster?

The limit of seven full-time PAs or APRNs has been suspended by the Governor for the duration of the state of disaster. However, both PAs, APRNs, and their supervising physicians remain responsible for meeting the standard of care for delegated acts.

5. What if the PA or APRN is delegated general medical authority but not prescribing authority?

Texas law does not have a limit on the number of non-prescribing delegates that a physician may supervise.

6. Can a PA or APRN have more than one supervising physician?

Yes, there is no limit on the number of supervising physicians that a PA or APRN may have. This is the law pre-disaster declaration and remains unchanged.

7. Does the supervising physician have to be at the same location as their delegates at all times that the delegates are providing medical care?

No, but a supervising physician must be available to answer questions and provide assistance to the delegates as needed. Telecommunication must always be available.