



Updated April 16, 2020

## Summary of Surgeon General Emergency Order 20-002

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The Surgeon General, pursuant to the authority granted him by Executive Order 20-52, issued an emergency order on March 16 with an effective date of March 9, 2020, to respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 with the following provisions:

- MDs, DOs, PAs and APRNs who are designated as a controlled substance prescribing practitioner may issue a renewal of a controlled substance without having to conduct a physical examination of the patient, but **only for an existing patient for the purpose of treating chronic nonmalignant pain**. Telehealth may only be substituted for the physical examination.
- Physicians qualified to certify patients for medical marijuana may issue a certification **only for an existing qualified patient with an existing certification that was issued by that qualified physician** without the need for an in-person physician examination.
- Any health care professionals, advanced life support professionals, and basic life support professionals, holding a valid license in another state, territory or district may provide such services in Florida. Such health care practitioners may not represent or hold themselves out as licensed to practice in Florida. There is no requirement that such practitioners practice in an underserved area, or free of charge.

- Healthcare professionals not licensed in Florida, in order to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, may provide telehealth services to patients in Florida for without having to register as a telehealth provider. This exemption applies only to MDs, DOs, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses not currently involved in a disciplinary proceeding. All other requirements of the telehealth statute remain in effect, including the requirement that health care professionals practice within their applicable scope of practice.
- Emergency medical services training programs may, with the approval of the training director, substitute supervised remote live videoconferencing or simulation for one-half of the supervised clinical instruction hours and one-half of the supervised field internship hours required by statute.

All of the above provisions are effective for a period not to exceed 30 days, unless extended. Access the [Surgeon General's Emergency Order here](#). The Surgeon General's recent [extension of the order until May 8, 2020 is available here](#).

If you are an FMA member and have further questions, please contact our General Counsel's office at [legal@FLmedical.org](mailto:legal@FLmedical.org) or (800) 762-0233.