

Date: APR 21 2020

From: Executive in Charge, Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)

Subj: CRNA Practice During the COVID-19 National Emergency

To: VHA Central Office Senior Leaders
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)
VA Medical Center Directors (00)

1. Today, I signed Directive 1899, Health Care Professional Practice in VA. This new directive memorializes VHA's long-standing practice of allowing VA health care professionals to deliver health care services in a State other than the State that issued their current, full, and unrestricted license, registration, or certification. The directive also encourages VA medical facilities to increase VA beneficiaries' access to health care by allowing VA health care professionals to practice and operate within the full scope of their license, registration, or certification.
2. In response to the national emergency caused by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), several States have temporarily waived licensure requirements to grant full practice authority to Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). In addition, prior to the COVID-19 emergency, several State licensing boards had permanently granted full practice authority to CRNAs. A list of these States is provided as an attachment to this Memorandum.
3. During this national emergency, I strongly encourage all VA medical facilities to use the authorities created by VHA Directive 1899 and State licensing boards that have either permanently authorized independent practice for CRNAs or whose States have waived licensure limitations during this emergency to amend medical facility by-laws to allow CRNAs to have full practice authority to the extent that is within the full scope of their license.
4. If you have questions, please contact Christine Engstrom, PhD, CRNP, AOCN, FAANP, Director, Clinical Practice via email at Christine.Engstrom@va.gov or Penny Jensen, DNP, APRN, RNP-C, FAAN, FAANP, Program Manager, APRN via email at Penny.Jensen@va.gov.



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