

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

POLICY 2020-05

INTERIM POLICY ON EMERGENCY TEMPORARY LICENSES

June 25, 2020
Amended December 1, 2022

On March 17, 2020, the Governor issued an “Order Expanding Access to Physician Services,” to assure access to treatment by physicians during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This order authorized issuance of emergency licenses to certain physicians as part of a statewide efforts to address the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The Board of Registration in Medicine (“Board”) adopted this policy on June 25, 2020 to provide clarity with respect to the expiration date for emergency licenses issued pursuant to the orders specified above. The Board has extended the expiration date to address ongoing increased demand for physician services in Massachusetts. On January 27, 2022, the Commissioner of Public Health issued Order 2022-09 authorized a second group of emergency licenses for certain physicians to address the continuing threat of COVID-19.

In light of ongoing workforce shortages at Massachusetts hospitals which constrains their capacity to admit and treat patients resulting in care delays and reduced access to services, the Emergency Temporary Licenses issued pursuant to the orders specified above will remain valid until June 30, 2023.

To ensure there is no interruption in patient care, physicians who have been issued an Emergency Temporary License and who have submitted a full license application with the Board on or before June 30, 2023, will have their Emergency Temporary License remain active until the Full License application is adjudicated.