

Tennessee APRN COVID-19 Survey

Overview: To facilitate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governors in states with reduced or restricted Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) practice have issued Executive Orders that temporarily suspend all practice requirements (five states) or waive select practice agreement requirements (16 states) according to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). No action has been taken in the seven remaining reduced or restricted practice states (See Table 1).

Purpose: The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented circumstances and has provided the opportunity to highlight the contributions of APRNs. The purpose of this study is to: 1) describe state practice barriers, 2) determine the effect of COVID-19 pandemic-related suspension of all practice restrictions or waiver of select practice agreement requirements in states with reduced or restricted practice, and 3) explore the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on APRN practice.

Methods: A two-phased, multiple methods, descriptive study will be employed.

Phase 1, utilizing a convenience sampling with maximum variation sampling, will feature a web-based Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) survey hosted by Vanderbilt University with quantitative and qualitative questions, using a HIPAA compliant secure platform. Communication about the survey and sharing of a link to the survey will be facilitated by several national nursing organizations. State nursing organizations may also supplement recruitment of survey participants. The targeted survey release date is June 1, 2020.

Results from phase 1 will inform development of research questions for phase 2 which will consist of virtual semi-structured, recorded interviews with Tennessee survey respondents who volunteer for an interview. Participation in phase 1 of the study does not require participation in phase 2. However, only phase 1 survey respondents will have an option to participate in phase 2 of the study. Phase 2 will be conducted only in Tennessee. Participation is voluntary, and data will be recorded in aggregate. Institutional Review Board review has been completed by Vanderbilt University.

Notes:

We will be able to segregate data by state, by type of COVID-19 practice regulation changes (e.g., suspension of all practice requirements, waiver of select practice agreement requirements, or no changes), and total responses. Representatives from participating states will have the opportunity to receive results from their respective state.

**Table 1: COVID-19 Pandemic: Temporary Changes in State APRN Practice Requirements
(States with Reduced or Restricted Practice Authority)**

Type of Executive Order	States Included
Temporary suspension of all practice requirements	Kentucky ¹ , Louisiana ¹ , New Jersey ¹ , New York ¹ , Wisconsin ¹
Temporary waiver of select practice restrictions	Alabama ¹ , Arkansas ¹ , California ² , Indiana ¹ , Kansas ¹ , Massachusetts ¹ , Michigan ¹ , Missouri ¹ , North Carolina ¹ , Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee ² , Texas ¹ , Virginia ¹ , West Virginia ¹
No action	Delaware ¹ , Florida ² , Georgia ² , Illinois ¹ , Mississippi ¹ , Ohio ¹ , Utah ¹

¹ Reduced practice state

² Restricted practice state

Please note: Suspension of all practice requirements or waiver of select practice restrictions for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), Certified Nurse-Midwives/Certified Midwives (CNMs/CMs), or Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) are not included in the linked AANP maps.

Research team:

Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAANP, FCCM-Assistant Dean for Clinical Scholarship Vanderbilt University

Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC, FAANP-Dean and Professor University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center

Carole R. Myers, PhD, RN, FAAN-Professor University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Mavis Schorn, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, FNAP-Senior Associate Dean for Academics Vanderbilt University

Contact: Questions should be directed to Carole R. Myers at cmyers9@utk.edu.

Sources:

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) (April 24, 2020). *COVID-19 State emergency response: Temporarily suspended and waived practice agreement requirements*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.aanp.org/advocacy/state/covid-19-state-emergency-response-temporarily-suspended-and-waived-practice-agreement-requirements>

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