Order Waiving Staffing Ratio of Pharmacists to Pharmacy Technicians Relating to Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization as a result of a broader spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order N-39-20, during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs may waive any statutory or regulatory professional licensing requirements and amend scopes of practice pertaining to individuals licensed pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Accordingly, for pharmacists engaged exclusively in initiating and administering COVID-19 vaccines, and pharmacy technicians engaged exclusively in administering COVID-19 vaccines under the direct supervision and control of such pharmacists, the Director waives Business and Professions Code section 4115, subdivision (f)(1) to the extent it limits pharmacies with only one pharmacist to having no more than one pharmacy technician working, subject to the condition that such pharmacies may have no more than two pharmacy technicians working.

This order is effective immediately but may be amended as circumstances require.

Dated: April 20, 2021

Signature on File

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Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director