



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Announces State Agencies Are Working To Cut Red Tape for Healthcare Professionals Displaced By Hurricanes

Governor asks licensing boards to expedite process to help doctors, nurses, and other professionals work in New Mexico

Santa Fe - Governor Bill Richardson announced today that the New Mexico Medical Board, Board of Nursing and Regulation and Licensing Department are moving quickly to provide temporary or expedited licenses to healthcare professionals from states declared disaster areas due to the recent hurricanes. The Governor is calling on all healthcare regulatory boards and commissions to expedite the licensing process for healthcare professionals forced to relocate following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“It’s important we act quickly to help these professionals settle their families and get their lives back in order,” said the Governor. “My office, these boards and healthcare organizations around the state are starting to see increased inquiries from professionals who wish to relocate to New Mexico. In addition to helping them resume normal lives, our citizens will benefit by having expanded access to qualified healthcare providers.”

New Mexico Medical Board

Governor Richardson sent Charlotte Kinney - Executive Director of the New Mexico Medical Board - written concurrence to adopt emergency regulations in order to expedite the licensure processes in New Mexico of physicians and physician assistants. The emergency regulation will allow physicians and physician assistants to apply at no cost during the next four months, and permits the Board to waive requirements for some documentation that may be difficult or impossible to obtain because of the disaster. The Medical Board will also move forward with public hearings to consider permanent regulations that will address emergency situations in the future. The Medical Board can be reached at 800-945-5845 or <http://www.state.nm.us/nmbme/>.

New Mexico Board of Nursing

The New Mexico Board of Nursing belongs to a 19-state licensing compact for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, which means that nurses in good standing with current licenses in their home states can begin working immediately in any other compact state. The compact includes the states of Mississippi and Texas. It does not include Louisiana and Alabama.

Executive Director Allison Kozeliski, R.N. informed the Governor's Office that they stand ready to issue "a temporary license in two days or less to displaced nurses." Licensing fees will be waived. The Board of Nursing can be reached at 505-841-9082 or <http://www.state.nm.us/clients/nursing/>.

New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department

For 27 other professions - including 18 in healthcare such as psychologists, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, physical and behavioral therapists - each board within the department has enacted emergency measures and/or provisions. New Mexico Regulation and Licensing can be reached at 476-4600 or <http://www.rld.state.nm.us/>. "Their lives have been greatly disrupted by the tragedy in the Gulf Coast Region. The last thing these professionals need are road blocks," said Department Director Kathleen O'Dea.

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