

The following allowances have been extended through December 31, 2021 and will be revisited at the Board's December Board meeting:

- In recognition of the COVID-19 crisis and due to the potential unavailability of the most secure platform, licensees were notified that they may follow HHS guidelines if more secure platforms cannot be reasonably accessed and if the licensee notifies and receives verbal consent from the patient or caretaker that the use of the platform may not be HIPAA compliant. The Board relaxed enforcement of non-HIPAA compliant platforms if the licensee's use of those platforms is done in good faith within the guidelines given above. Posted March 19, 2020. *The Board voted October 8, 2021 to continue to follow DHHS Guidelines <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html> and to extend this allowance through December 31, 2021 and will revisit this at the December Board meeting.*
- Temporary licensees affected by the COVID-19 crisis will continue to be allowed extended deadlines to allow additional time to complete their supervised experience years. A request for an extension must be made to the Board in writing. Effective March 27, 2020. *The Board voted October 8, 2021 to extend this allowance through December 31, 2021 and will revisit this at the December Board meeting.*
- The Board continues to relax the Clinical Fellowship work week to mirror the American Speech-Hearing- Language Association's (ASHA) work week and also accepts the COVID-19 allowances that ASHA currently has in place. Effective March 27, 2020. *The Board voted October 8, 2021 to continue to follow ASHA Guidelines <https://www.asha.org/Certification/COVID-19-Guidance-From-CFCC/> and extend this allowance through December 31, 2021 and will revisit this at the December Board meeting.*
- The Board continues to accept ASHA's requirements for the Clinical Fellowship Year in lieu of the NCBOESLPA's Supervised Experience Year to allow more flexibility and less confusion for temporary licensee's and their supervisors. Effective March 27, 2020.

The following allowances have been adopted as Policy for the Board as of May 17, 2021:

- Electronic copies of clinical practicum summary sheets, required for temporary licensure, were accepted in lieu of hard copies. Effective March 27, 2020. *On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to make it the Board's policy to accept electronic copies of clinical practicum summary sheets.*
- Telesupervised hours were accepted in place of direct face-to-face hours of supervision for temporary licensees during their supervised experience year. Effective March 24, 2020. *On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to make it the Board's policy to accept telesupervision of temporary licensees as direct supervision, when the supervising licensee has determined that the circumstances are appropriate.*

- The policy requiring that supervisors be within 50 miles of the SLP-Assistant during the workday was/is temporarily relaxed during the period of the COVID-19 crisis. *Effective April 10, 2020. On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to repeal the previous policy requiring supervisors to be within 50 miles of the SLP-Assistant during the workday.*
- Due to office processing and postal service delays, the office of the Board did not enforce the policy to hold hard copies of the renewed licenses for 10 days before mailing, when payments were made by check. *Effective March 16, 2020. As of May 14, 2021 the Board will no longer enforce the policy to hold hard copies of the renewed licenses for 10 days before mailing, when payments were made by check.*

The following allowances have ended As of September 10, 2021:

- The limit for the number of simucase hours accepted was removed; standardized patients were/are accepted in place of actual patients. *Effective March 24, 2020. This accommodation is limited to Board requirements only. It is the responsibility of each applicant to confirm that their University has satisfied the clinical requirements of the applicant and it is the responsibility of each University to ensure that they satisfy the clinical requirements of the professional associations and the requirements necessary to maintain accreditation.*

The following allowances have ended As of May 17, 2021:

- The 30-day grace period under Article 22. Licensure Act for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists. § 90-300. “Renewal of Licenses”, was extended to 90 days. *Effective March 27, 2020. On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to revert to the 30-day grace period effective immediately.*
- Pursuant to North Carolina Governor Cooper’s Executive Order No. 130, Section 3, the NCBOESLPA allowed licensed providers in other states that do not currently hold a license in North Carolina to provide services via telepractice to residents in North Carolina so long as their state licensure board has put forth allowances for them to do so as well. *Effective April 8, 2020 and Posted May 29, 2020. On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to end this allowance.*
- Audiology students who were not yet able to sit for the Praxis exam were issued a temporary license to practice until they were/are able to provide a passing Praxis score, or until their temporary license expires. *Effective May 29, 2020. On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to end this allowance.*
- Temporary licenses were extended to allow time for licensees to pass the Praxis examination. *Minutes May 29, 2020. On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to end this allowance.*
- Intern students who were unable to attend their clinical work placements due to the outbreak of COVID-19 were allowed to obtain clinical hours to meet the requirements for the NCBOESLPA through; highly concentrated lectures with a required debriefing via video recording or virtual classroom (up to 21 hours this way); *Effective March 24, 2020. On May 14, 2021 the Board voted to end this allowance.*