



April 16, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Hospitals

FROM: Gwen C. Thompson, Director of Healthcare Quality

SUBJECT: Update to AAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program Designation

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-08, which declared a State of Emergency in South Carolina based on the determination that the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was an imminent public health threat. Subsequently, on March 17, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-10, which directed state agencies to take appropriate actions regarding provisions of existing regulations that in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency. On March 28, 2020 and April 12, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Orders No. 2020-15 and 2020-23, respectively, which further extended the State of Emergency.

In anticipation of difficulties in obtaining renewals during the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended employers and regulatory bodies to consider extending recognitions of Neonatal Resuscitation Program designations for up to 120 days beyond their expiration dates. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) understands the urgent need for there to be sufficient staff at healthcare facilities as our state continues to respond to COVID-19 and is in accordance with both the AAP’s recommendation and Regulation 61-16, *Minimum Standards for Licensing Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries*, Section 1311(B), which states:

“In order to meet the potential need for resuscitation of every neonate, at least one person who has a current provider-designation, as defined by completion of the AAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program, shall be on site.”

DHEC hereby recognizes AAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program designations that are 120 days or less past expiration as satisfactory.

This memorandum revokes and replaces DHEC’s April 8, 2020 memorandum recognizing Neonatal Resuscitation Program designations up to 60 days past expiration (based on prior AAP recommendations).

This memorandum expires upon expiration of the State of Emergency and is subject to modification or revocation at DHEC’s discretion.