

## Ambulatory Physicians Called to Provide Care Outside Typical Practice Setting

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, ambulatory physicians may be asked to provide care outside their typical practice setting. Requests may include providing care in an emergency department or an inpatient setting or responding to needs in other states. This resource provides questions to ask and information to assist you in protecting yourself professionally, and in understanding the situation in your state, community, and health system.

- The Federation of State Medical Boards' [COVID-19 page](#) tracks state actions. Review its resources on emergency declarations and licensure waivers.
- Your AAFP chapter, health department, state medical board, or state medical society may also be able to provide further information on actions being taken.
- Hospitals and health systems are required to have an emergency operation plan to guide their disaster response (i.e., communication, resources, staff responsibility, emergency privileges, safety, and security). Ask for a copy to review.
- Malpractice insurance varies by state. Your state's emergency declaration may provide you some protections. Ask your hospital or health system if you will be covered by its malpractice insurance in your new setting. Review your policy to ensure that you are covered in your temporary practice setting and ask about tail coverage. Speak with your insurance carrier directly; you will likely need to update your coverage and keep a record of communication with the carrier. When in doubt, contact an attorney.

### Questions to ask:

- If you are being asked to provide care in another state, what is being done to allow for licensure?
- Has your hospital or health system activated its emergency operation plan?
- How does the hospital's active emergency operation plan affect you, and how are temporary privileges being granted?
- Does the state emergency declaration provide you with liability protections or malpractice coverage?
- What changes need to be made to your malpractice insurance to cover you in a new practice setting?
- Will your hospital or health system's malpractice insurance cover you? In what settings, and for what aspects of patient care?
- What tail coverage is included with your malpractice insurance?
- How will continuity of care be provided for your patient panel? Will you continue to be involved in care for your patient panel?