

## **Misinformation the Board Would Like to Address:**

### **1. Do APRNs need to close their clinics or cease practice?**

No. The Board is not advising any licensee to close their practice or stop practicing. The Board is not terminating any currently active protocols as a result of the position statement. The Board enforces Georgia law and Board rules - that is its statutory responsibility. Compliance with those laws and rules is the responsibility of each licensee. The law governing APRN protocols has been in effect since 2008, and the Board's interpretation has been the consistent basis for all protocol approvals and denials. The Board also cannot provide business or legal advice regarding how individual practices are structured. *Moving forward, when approving protocol agreements or considering enforcement, the Board makes a commitment to closely examine the relationship between the physician and the APP with the purpose of ensuring independent medical judgment and a truly collaborative relationship between the physician and the APP.*

For reference, applicable laws and rules can be found here: **O.C.G.A. § [43-34-25\(n\)](#); [360-32-.01](#), [360-32-.02](#) & [360-32-.03](#)**

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### **2. Where did this new regulation or position statement come from?**

**This is not a new law or a new position.** The position statement is a clarification of a law that has been in effect since 2008 and reflects the Board's longstanding interpretation, which predates the law's formal enactment. That interpretation has been the basis for every protocol approval and denial the Board has issued. The statement was released in response to a growing number of questions and non-compliant arrangements that have come to the Board's attention since transitioning to the new online system.

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### **3. What is the "healthcare crisis" being referenced, and what would constitute one?**

Since transitioning to the new online system, the Board has approved approximately 7,300 protocols and denied approximately 519 - representing roughly 6.6% of submitted protocols. Those denials reflect arrangements the Board found to be out of compliance with applicable law and rules. The Board does not believe a denial rate of approximately 6.6% constitutes a healthcare crisis, particularly given that more than 27,000 active APRN protocols are currently in place in Georgia.

APRN protocols have always been reviewed for compliance with Georgia law and Board rules. The Board approves protocols it finds to be in compliance and denies those that do not meet the applicable legal and rule-based standards for specialty, supervision, and practice location.

Georgia has also licensed approximately 1,022 PA's since July 2025 with over 18,717 collaborations approved.

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#### **4. Are thousands of Georgians losing access to healthcare?**

No. The Board's release of this position statement does not change what lawful healthcare access looks like in Georgia. The statement reflects what has been the law for over 15 years. In fact, over the last year, the Board has tripled the number of approved APRN protocols, meaning more APRNs are being authorized to practice lawfully than ever before. Since July 2025, the Board has approved approximately 7,300 APRN protocols and denied 519 (6.6%) protocols that did not meet legal or rule-based standards for employment, supervision, or practice location. More than 27,000 active APRN protocols remain in place in Georgia with growth expected yearly.

The Board's position is that accountability in the physician-APRN relationship is essential to quality care for Georgians - and that has always been the Board's posture. The position statement does not mandate or direct any action that would result in Georgians losing access to healthcare. Each party to an agreement remains responsible for reviewing the specific facts and terms of that agreement and determining compliance with applicable supervision.

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#### **5. Why did the Board release this statement without prior notice?**

The statement was released to clarify the Board's existing interpretation of laws and rules that have been in effect since 2008. It was not a new policy announcement - it was a response to a growing volume of questions and an increasing number of applications reflecting non-compliant arrangements.

If you currently hold an active, approved protocol, you are authorized to practice. The Board is not directing active licensees or protocol holders to stop working. However, all licensees are responsible for understanding the laws and rules that govern their practice and ensuring their specific arrangements are in compliance with proper supervision. The Board releases position statements precisely to provide that clarification. If a licensee believes their current arrangement may be out of compliance, they should review the applicable law and rules and consider their options accordingly.

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#### **6. Is this an interpretation by the Board, or is it the law?**

Both. **O.C.G.A. § 43-34-25(n)**; **Rules 360-32-.01, 360-32-.02 & 360-32-.03** has been Georgia law since 2008. The position statement reflects the Board's longstanding interpretation of that law, consistent with how it has evaluated protocol applications since the law's enactment. This is not a new law and not a new interpretation. Moving forward, when approving protocol agreements or considering enforcement, the Board makes a commitment to closely examine the relationship between the physician and the APP with the purpose of ensuring independent medical judgment and a truly collaborative relationship between the physician and the APP.

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