

New Option for Physician Supervision and Collaboration Across State Lines

What Changed?

A temporary provision in the South Carolina General Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027 expands where certain physicians may be physically located while supervising South Carolina physician assistants (PAs) or collaborating with certain advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are physically located in South Carolina.

Under the provision, a **qualifying** physician who is physically located in North Carolina or Georgia may be recognized as practicing within the geographical boundaries of South Carolina for purposes of:

- Supervising a South Carolina PA; and/or
- Collaborating with a South Carolina nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse midwife (CNM), or clinical nurse specialist (CNS).

The provision does not change existing South Carolina licensing, scope-of-practice, supervision, collaboration, or practice agreement requirements.

What are the Qualifying Requirements?

Physician Licensure

The physician must hold a permanent, active, unrestricted authorization to practice in South Carolina and be engaged in the active practice of their respective profession.

Physician Practice Location

The physician must be primarily practicing at a site physically located in South Carolina or in a state contiguous to South Carolina — North Carolina or Georgia.

Physician Employment

The physician must be employed by:

- A hospital licensed in South Carolina; or
- An integrated health care system that owns a hospital licensed in South Carolina; or
- A hospital system or integrated health care system located in North Carolina or Georgia that also employs physicians who primarily practice at a site physically located in South Carolina.

PA and APRN Employment

The PA or APRN must also be employed by the hospital or integrated health care system for which the physician works and be physically located in South Carolina.

What This Means for Physicians

If you meet the requirements above, you may be able to supervise a South Carolina PA or collaborate with a South Carolina NP, CNM, or CNS while you are physically located in North Carolina or Georgia.

Existing South Carolina requirements continue to apply, including limits on the number of PAs and APRNs a physician may supervise or collaborate with in South Carolina and requirements related to scope of practice, training, experience, and delegated medical acts.

Before entering into an arrangement, physicians located in North Carolina or Georgia should consult their home-state medical board to determine whether their state's laws permit the arrangement and whether additional requirements apply. Also, you must be eligible to supervise or collaborate in your home state to supervise or collaborate in South Carolina.

What This Means for Physician Assistants

This provision creates an additional option for a PA in South Carolina to have a qualifying supervising physician who is physically located in North Carolina or Georgia provided the PA is located in South Carolina.

If you are **currently practicing and would like to be supervised by a physician located in North Carolina or Georgia**, you must submit a scope of practice guideline for approval with the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners (BME) for the new supervising physician. PAs must submit the scope of practice guideline and accompanying documents through the Scope of Practice portal on the Board's website: <https://llr.sc.gov/med/pascope.aspx>.

Be mindful that a PA should terminate their scope of practice with a provider they are not longer being supervised by. This can be done via the PA portal by submitting the Primary Supervisor Termination or by the Physician submitting the termination via email to medboard@llr.sc.gov.

If you are **initially beginning practice with an NC or GA supervising physician**: You must be licensed in South Carolina and must submit and have approved scope of practice guidelines with the BME that identify your supervising physician. The supervising physician forms have been updated and are available October 5, 2026. forms must be completed and uploaded through the PA Portal.

All other South Carolina requirements governing PA supervision, scope of practice, and delegated medical acts continue to apply.

What This Means for an APRNs — NPs, CNMs and CNSs

This provision allows a qualifying physician physically located in North Carolina or Georgia to collaborate with a South Carolina NP, CNM, or CNS. A written practice agreement must be in place before the collaborative practice begins and maintained throughout the collaborative relationship, as required by South Carolina law. All other applicable South Carolina requirements governing collaboration, practice agreements, scope of practice, and delegated medical acts continue to apply.

APRNs and their physicians must complete a Change of Practice Request Form prior to beginning work under a North Carolina or Georgia collaborating physician.

Important Requirements That Continue to Apply to Physicians and their Advanced Practice Practitioners

This provision changes where a qualifying physician may be physically located. It does not otherwise eliminate South Carolina's existing supervision and collaboration requirements.

Among those requirements:

- A physician generally may not supervise or collaborate with more than the equivalent of six full-time PAs, NPs, CNMs, or CNSs, or have more than six of these practitioners providing clinical services at one time.
- Delegated medical acts must be within the practitioner's legally authorized scope of practice.
- Scope of practice guidelines and practice agreements may not include medical acts outside the physician's usual practice, training, or experience or outside the PA's or APRN's authorized practice, training, or experience.