



California
CHAPTER

LEGISLATIVE REPORT #311

Governor Issues Executive Order Allowing Flex of Scope of Practice

March 30, 2020: In efforts to combat the continued threat of COVID-19, this afternoon the Governor issued an executive order that, amongst multiple other provisions, allows for the flexing of scope of practice for healthcare providers to address healthcare workforce shortages during the COVID-19 crisis. The order only remains in effect until June 30th.

The executive order does not specifically say what is “flexed” as it relates to scope of practice. At the press conference he was asked multiple times about this aspect of the executive order and did not provide any detail but he did comment his understanding this is controversial and is no way mean to supersede the legislative discussions occurring in the Legislature.. The executive order specifically says the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs may “amend scope of practices”. I read this to allow for physician supervision be “flexed”.

[See Executive Order](#)

The Governor also announced a new initiative to recruit physicians and other health care professions to expand the health care workforce to address the COVID-19 surge. Health care professionals with an active license, public health professionals, medical retirees, medical and nursing students, or members of medical disaster response teams in California are all encouraged to join the new California Health Corps. More information can be found at healthcorps.ca.gov