

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: February 4, 2021
 ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California
 SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action on Implementation Plan for AB 890
 STAFF CONTACT: Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs

REQUESTED ACTION:

Approval of the proposed actions pertaining to the Medical Board of California's (Board) involvement in the implementation of AB 890.

Background:

AB 890 (Chapter 265 of 2020) was signed into law by the Governor on September 29, 2020. The bill creates a two-tiered framework in statute to authorize nurse practitioners (NPs) to practice without the supervision of a physician and surgeon if they meet certain educational, training, and examination requirements. For the sake of clarity, this item refers to both new classes of NPs collectively as "independent NPs."

During its November 2020 meeting, the Board directed staff to do the following:

1. Invite the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) to speak at the next Board meeting on their implementation plans for AB 890 (**see Agenda Item #24**)
2. Work with BRN on joint communications to stakeholders and consumers that includes how physicians and NPs can collaborate on patient care and other information relevant to consumers
3. Work with BRN to develop guidelines and avoid unintended consequences

Among other provisions, AB 890 requires BRN to create a Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee (Committee), which will advise and make recommendations to BRN on matters related to NPs and possibly the AB 890 regulations that must be adopted by BRN. By the end of 2020, BRN received hundreds of applications for membership on the Committee (Board staff also distributed the application link to Board licensees).

Board staff expects AB 890 regulations to address, at minimum, the following topics:

- Requirements of a three-year (4,600 hour) "transition to practice," which is necessary for an NP to practice as an independent NP
- Supplemental examination and certification requirements
- Conditions that require independent NPs to consult with, or refer their patients to, physicians

Proposed Board Actions on AB 890

Board staff propose the following next steps, pertaining to AB 890:

1. Monitor the Committee (after it is constituted) and BRN meetings for agenda items related to the implementation of the bill and provide comment and feedback that furthers the Board's consumer protection mission
2. Consult with the Board President and Vice President on developments occurring between Board meetings, including whether to call off-cycle Board meetings necessary to provide timely input on pending regulations
3. Place on future Board meeting agendas items pertaining to proposed regulations, and other key matters, related to the implementation of AB 890
4. Evaluate whether Board regulation/policy changes are necessary and advise the Board at a future meeting
5. Work with BRN on joint communication efforts that support consumer protection and licensee awareness of the impacts of the bill
6. Invite BRN to future Board meetings to provide updates on their progress

Resources:

[AB 890, Wood. Nurse Practitioners: Scope of Practice: Practice Without Standardized Procedures.](#) Version: 09/29/20 – Chaptered