



Gov. Whitmer Signs New EO: Provides Immunity Protections; Temporarily Loosens Scope of Practice

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The following is a public statement from Mohammed Arsiwala, MD, president of the Michigan State Medical Society, on Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-30 which provides temporary relief from certain restrictions and requirements governing the provision of medical services.

"Governor Gretchen Whitmer on Sunday signed [Executive Order 2020-30](#), which provides immunity protections to clinicians who are presented with challenging decisions as hospital's face shortages of supplies, equipment and bed capacity. The EO also provides flexibility to health care facilities in how they utilize their current workforce, by loosening scope of practice requirements.

"Now, more than ever, it is important that clinicians are provided the appropriate protections as they provide medical care to a growing number of Michiganders. Civil and criminal liability protections, except in the cases of gross negligence, are critical to providing peace of mind to our frontline workers who are tirelessly combating an unknown enemy in COVID-19. MSMS applauds the Governor's leadership in protecting clinicians on the frontlines.

"Expansion of scope of practice, even temporarily, is not supported by MSMS as patients benefit most from a physician-led team. Now more than ever, patients must be confident they will receive safe and quality care. MSMS supports language in the EO that requires health care facility administrators to consult with their respective medical leadership teams to determine how to maintain proper staffing for the best patient care possible. Additionally, MSMS expects that any decisions made will take into consideration assignments appropriate to each professional's education, training and experience.

"These are unprecedented times. Physicians, clinicians and other health care team members are working tirelessly around the clock to provide the best possible care to the patients who rely on their expertise, dedication and compassion. MSMS looks forward to continuing to work with the Administration to find the best possible solutions for a rapidly evolving public health crisis."

PLEASE NOTE: Scope of practice as referenced in Executive Order 20-30 is specific to the state of emergency related to COVID-19 cases only.