

Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Governor Greg Abbott has [declared a state of disaster](#) in Texas due to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The laws and rules governing the practice of pharmacy in Texas require a pharmacist to visit an ambulatory surgical center (ASC) pharmacy at least once each calendar week that the facility is open and perform certain duties. Specifically, board rule [§291.76\(c\)\(1\)\(B\)\(xiv\)](#) states that the pharmacist-in-charge is responsible for ensuring that a pharmacist visits the ASC at least once each calendar week that the facility is open.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy has determined that strict compliance with these laws could prevent, hinder, or delay the delivery of pharmaceutical services in relation to efforts to cope with the declared disaster.

Accordingly, the Office of the Governor has, to the extent necessary, temporarily suspended the requirements for a pharmacist to visit an ASC at least once each calendar week of board rule 291.76(c)(1)(B)(xiv). This suspension is in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020, disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

§291.76 Class C Pharmacies Located in a Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center

(c) Personnel.

(1) Pharmacist-in-charge.

(B) Responsibilities. The pharmacist-in-charge shall have the responsibility for, at a minimum, the following:

~~(xiv) ensuring that a pharmacist visits the ASC at least once each calendar week that the facility is open.~~