DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES

State Board of Veterinary Medicine

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE RULES AND REGULATIONS

4 CCR 727-1

[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]

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1.2 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

These regulations shall govern the process to become a Colorado licensed veterinarian, or a Colorado registered veterinary technician and the practice of veterinary medicine in Colorado.

1.3 APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this section shall be applicable to the practice of veterinary medicine in Colorado that includes veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

1.4 DEFINITIONS

This Rule is promulgated pursuant to sections 12-20-204, 12-315-106(5)(g), and 12-315-104, C.R.S., and any defined terms therein are applicable here. In addition to the definitions found in section 12-315-104, C.R.S., the following apply:

A. "Dentistry" means the diagnosing, treating, correcting, changing, relieving, or preventing abnormalities of the oral cavity or associated structures, including surgical, non-surgical, or related procedures.

B.A "veterinarian-client-patient relationship," as defined in section 12-315-104(19), C.R.S., means a relationship established when:

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of an animal and the need for medical treatment, and the owner or other caretaker has agreed to follow the instruction of the veterinarian;

2. There is sufficient knowledge of an animal by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal, which means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept; and

3. The practicing veterinarian is readily available, or has arranged for emergency coverage, for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

C. "Practice of Veterinary Medicine" as defined in section 12-315-104(14), C.R.S.

1.5 DENTISTRY

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B. The practice of dentistry requires:

1. Establishing and maintaining a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), as defined in section 12-315-104(19), C.R.S.;

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C. The practice of dentistry, excluding making a diagnosis and performing surgical procedures, may be delegated to veterinary personnel under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian pursuant to section 12-315-105(1)(j), C.R.S., and as described in Rule 1.6(B)(1)

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1.6 SUPERVISION

A. Supervised Practice pursuant to sections 12-315-104(6), (10), and (10.5), and 12-315-116, C.R.S., means the supervising licensed veterinarian directs or supervises the authorized delegated treatment or collection of diagnostic information of a patient.1. Only a licensed veterinarian in Colorado may diagnose, prescribe, perform surgery, or initiate treatment.

a. These duties, with the exception of rabies vaccination administration pursuant to section 12-315-105(1)(q), C.R.S., cannot be delegated to veterinary personnel other than a veterinary student or veterinary student preceptor.

b. These duties may be delegated to a veterinary student, veterinary student preceptor in compliance with section 12-315-116, C.R.S.

B. "Direction and supervision" as applied in section 12-315-105(1)(j), C.R.S., is "direct supervision" as defined in section 12-315-104(6), C.R.S. Indirect supervision and immediate supervision are applicable under limited circumstances. Direct supervision means the supervising licensed veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the patient is being treated.

2. Immediate Supervision means the supervising licensed veterinarian and any person being supervised are in direct contact with the patient as defined in 12-315-104(10) C.R.S.

3. "Indirect supervision" means the licensed veterinarian in Coloradomay direct or supervise the authorized delegated treatment or collecting of diagnostic information of a patient at a "veterinary premises" or "premises" (as defined in section 12-315-104(21), C.R.S.) without being on the premises and shall not be construed to allow the establishment of a veterinary-client patient relationship (VCPR) solely by telephonic or other electronic means under the following criteria:

a. The licensed veterinarian is a practicing member of the veterinary staff on the premises with responsibilities for the patient for which the "indirect supervision" of veterinary personnel is being given;

b. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), as defined in section 12-315- 104(19), C.R.S., has been previously established;

c. The licensed veterinarian must be readily available for consultation by telephone or other form of immediate communication;

d. The patient must be hospitalized or the patient must be undergoing outpatient treatment for a previously diagnosed medical condition;

e. Orders for treatment, either written or verbal, to persons who are providing veterinary medical care under "indirect supervision" must be entered into the patient's medical record; and

f. A suitable written protocol for "indirect supervision" must be established by the licensed veterinarian designated as responsible pursuant to section 12-315-122, C.R.S., for each "veterinary premise."

4. In a life-threatening emergency, the supervising licensed veterinarian may provide verbal instructions necessary for stabilizing the patient prior to examining the patient provided the supervising licensed veterinarian subsequently and timely examines the patient and documents the instruction provided in the patient's record.

C. Pursuant to section 12-315-105(1)(j), C.R.S., veterinary personnel that do not include a "licensed veterinarian" as defined in section 12-315-104(11), C.R.S., or a "veterinary student" as defined under section 12-315-104(22), C.R.S., may perform veterinary medicine duties under the direction and supervision of a licensed veterinarian who shall be responsible for such person's performance under, but not limited to, the following conditions:

1. Veterinary personnel may assist in a surgical procedure under the "immediate supervision" of a licensed veterinarian as defined in section 12-315-104(10), C.R.S.

1.7 VETERINARIAN LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

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I. Continuing Education

1. Each licensed veterinarian or academic veterinarian with an active license in Colorado is required to attend thirty-two hours of educational study per renewal period as set forth in section 12-315-110(3), C.R.S. Continuing education hours may only be applied to one renewal period. This requirement is not applicable to a licensed veterinarian renewing an inactive license. Continuing education hours must include:

a. Two hours of jurisprudence on the Colorado Veterinary Practice Act.

b. At least one hour in Substance Use Prevention Training covering specific topics. (see Rule 1.7(J))

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J. Substance Use Prevention Training for License Renewal, Reactivation, or Reinstatement

1. Pursuant to section 12-30-114, C.R.S., every veterinarian, including every academic veterinarian, is required to complete at least one hour of training per renewal period in order to demonstrate competency regarding the topics/areas specified in section 12-30- 114(1)(a), C.R.S.

2. Training for the purpose of this section includes, but is not limited to, relevant and verifiable continuing education courses, conferences, or presentations, and distance learning. All such training must cover or be related to the topics specified in section 12- 30-114(1)(a), C.R.S., and be in accordance with Rule 1.7(I).

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1.8 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

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B. Provisional Registration

1. Between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, Colorado applicants who do not meet the examination registration requirements may apply for a provisional registration.

2. Each applicant shall submit a completed Board approved application along with the required fee in order to be considered for provisional registration approval and must also verify that the applicant completed the following:

a. Proof of current employment in the role or performing the duties of a veterinary technician;

b. Intent or desire to practice as a veterinary technician in Colorado.

3. Provisional registration is repealed as of October 1, 2028, as specified in section 12-315-203(4)(f), C.R.S.

C. Registration by Completion of Provisional Requirements

1. If an applicant meets the requirements pursuant to section 12-315-203(4)(c), C.R.S., on or before December 31, 2027, the applicant may apply for credentialing directly with the Board-approved credentialing organization. Once credentialed, the applicant may submit a completed Board-approved application, the required fee for registration approval, and verification that the applicant holds a current credential from the Board-approved credentialing organization.

2. Between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2028, individuals holding a provisional registration may pursue registration as a veterinary technician as described below:

a. Each applicant with a provisional registration shall submit a completed Board approved application along with the required fee in order to be considered for registration approval and shall verify that the applicant holds a current credential from the Board-approved credentialing organization.

3. An applicant may submit a request to the Board for a hardship extension for its consideration to extend the provisional registration expiration date to a date no later than June 30, 2028.

4. Registration by Completion of Provisional Requirements is repealed as of October 1, 2028, as specified in section 12-315-203(4)(f), C.R.S.

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E. Registration by Endorsement

1. In order to be eligible for registration by endorsement, an applicant must certify that the applicant does not currently possess a revoked, suspended, restricted, or conditional credential to practice as a veterinary technician, or is not currently pending disciplinary action against such credential, in another state or territory of the United States or through the federal government.

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F. Inactive Status and Reactivation of a Registration

1. A veterinary technician may apply to the Board to inactivate their registration.

a. If a veterinary technician registration is inactive, the veterinary technician shall not perform acts restricted to active registered veterinary technicians in Colorado pursuant to section 12-20-203(3), C.R.S., or use the title “veterinary technician”, or “registered veterinary technician” or the initials “RVT” or “VT” as restricted in section 12-315-204, C.R.S. The Board shall retain jurisdiction over inactive veterinary technicians for the purposes of disciplinary action pursuant to section 12-315-207, C.R.S.

b. Practicing as a veterinary technician with an inactive registration shall constitute unregistered practice and, therefore, may be grounds for disciplinary or injunctive action, up to and including revocation.

c. Registered veterinary technicians with inactive registrations are required to renew their registration every two years and submit the applicable fee.

d. To be considered for registration reactivation, an applicant must submit a completed reactivation application form and the reactivation fee. Each applicant for reactivation shall certify the following:

(1) Every credential or registration to practice as a veterinary technician held by applicant is in good standing;

(2) Applicant has reported to the Board any injunction or disciplinary action completed or pending against the applicant’s credential or registration to practice as a veterinary technician in any state;

(3) Applicant has reported to the Board any malpractice judgment, any settlement of a malpractice action or claim, and any malpractice action or claim pending against the applicant in which the malpractice allegedly relates to the applicant’s practice as a veterinary technician;

(4) Applicant has reported to the Board any inquiry/complaint pending, investigation being conducted by, or disciplinary proceeding pending before the licensing, grievance, or disciplinary board of any jurisdiction in which the applicant is registered or credentialed to practice as a veterinary technician in which the complaint, investigation, or proceeding concerns the applicant’s practice.

e. The Board may decline to reactivate a registration if disciplinary action is pending or if there is an unresolved complaint.

f. If the registration or credential has been inactive for less than two years, then the applicant is required to submit proof of fulfilling the requirements for the two-year period in which the individual’s registration was last active as well as the two-year period in which the registration or credential was expired or inactive.

g. If the registration or credential has been inactive for two or more years, then the requirements in Rule 1.8(A)(2) apply.

G. Reinstatement Requirements for Expired Registration

1. In order to reinstate or reactivate a registration back into active status, each applicant shall submit a completed Board approved application along with the required fee in order to be considered for registration approval and must also verify that the applicant:

a. Accurately and completely lists any acts that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Veterinary Practice Act and provides a written explanation of the circumstances of such act, including supporting documentation, if required, since last renewing their registration to an active status in this state.

b. Accurately and completely provides any and all information pertaining to any final or pending disciplinary action by any state or jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been previously credentialed since last renewing the individual's registration to an active registration in this state.

c. Holds a current credential from the Board-approved credentialing entity.

H. Revocation

1. Any person whose registration to practice is revoked will be ineligible to apply for any registration under the Veterinary Practice Act for at least two years after the date of revocation or surrender of the registration. Any subsequent application for registration shall be treated as an application for an original registration.

I. Renewal

1. A registered veterinary technician is required to renew their registration every two years, submit the applicable fee, and provide proof of current credential from the Board-approved credentialing organization.

2. A veterinary technician's renewal fee will be waived while on active duty with any branch of the Armed Services of the United States pursuant to section 12-315-206(2), C.R.S.

1.9 VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL REPORTING CHANGE OF ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, OR NAME

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1.10 VETERINARY MEDICAL ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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7. VCPR

The veterinary-client-patient relationship is the basis for veterinary care. To establish such a relationship, the veterinarian should have sufficient knowledge of the patient to understand its current health and render at least a preliminary diagnosis. This would require that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the patient either through office or home visits. This section shall not be construed to allow the establishment of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) solely by telephonic or other electronic means.

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1.11 RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

1.12 TRANSRECTAL PROCEDURES, OVA TRANSPLANT, EMBRYO TRANSFER, UTERINE LAVAGES, AND REPRODUCTIVE PROCEDURES

1.13 WAIVER OF VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP FOR ADMINISTERING, DISTRIBUTING, DISPENSING, OR PRESCRIBING IN AN URGENT SITUATION ONLY

1.14 FINING SCHEDULE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT AND BOARD RULES

1.15 DECLARATORY ORDERS

1.16 REPORTING CONVICTIONS, JUDGMENTS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

1.17 CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENTS TO LIMIT PRACTICE FOR PHYSICAL ILLNESS, PHYSICAL CONDITION, OR BEHAVIORAL OR MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER

This Rule is promulgated pursuant to sections 12-20-204, 12-30-108, 12-315-124, 12-315-125, and 12-315-208, C.R.S.

A. These requirements apply to a veterinarian or veterinary technician who holds an active license or registration issued by the Board, including a veterinarian issued an academic license.

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1.18 RULES REGARDING THE USE OF BENZODIAZEPINE

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Editor's Notes

History

Rules 1.00, 4.00 eff. 09/30/2007.
Rule 4.00 eff. 01/30/2008.
Entire rule eff. 12/30/2011.
Rule I.B eff. 08/30/2012.
Rule I.B emer. rule eff. 02/08/2013.
Rules I.A, 1.B, 1.E eff. 05/30/2013.
Rule I.A eff. 06/14/2013.
Rules I.B, II.A.17 eff. 09/30/2013.
Rule I eff. 08/14/2014.
Rules 1.2 A.8-18, 1.2 E.4, 1.2 G eff. 11/30/2019.
Rule 1.23 emer. rule eff. 05/01/2020; expired 08/29/2020.
Rule 1.24 emer. rule eff. 05/11/2020; expired 09/08/2020.
Rule 1.23 emer. rule eff. 08/30/2020; expired 12/28/2020.
Rule 1.24 emer. rule eff. 09/09/2020.
Entire rule eff. 10/15/2020.
Rule 1.10 B eff. 12/15/2020.
Rules 1.24, 1.25 emer. rules eff. 12/28/2020.
Rule 1.25 emer. rule eff. 01/11/2021.
Rules 1.4 E-F, 1.12 C eff. 04/14/2021.
Rules 1.24, 1.25 emer. rules eff. 04/27/2021.

Rule 1.25 emer. rule eff. 05/11/2021.
Rules 1.24, 1.25 emer. rules eff. 07/12/2021.
Rule 1.26 emer. rule eff. 11/01/2021.
Rules 1.24, 1.25 emer. rules eff. 11/02/2021.
Rules 1.17 C.1, 1.26 eff. 11/30/2021.
Rules 1.24, 1.25 emer. rules eff. 03/02/2022.
Rules 1.24, 1.25 emer. rules eff. 06/28/2022.
Rules 1.21, 1.22 emer. rules eff. 10/13/2022.
Rules 1.18, 1.19 emer. rules eff. 10/26/2022.
Rules 1.18, 1.19 emer. rules eff. 11/11/2022.
Rules 1.2-1.10, 1.12-1.22 eff. 12/15/2022.
Rules 1.18, 1.19 emer. rules eff. 01/09/2023; expired 05/09/2023.
Rule 1.11 eff. 04/14/2023.
Rules 1.21, 1.22 repealed, rule 1.20 renumbered as 1.18 eff. 11/30/2023.
Rules 1.8 C-D emer. rules eff. 02/13/2025.
Rules 1.8 C-D emer. rules eff. 06/12/2025.
Rules 1.8 C-D eff. 07/30/2025.

Annotations

Rules 1.22 B. and 1.22 C. (adopted 10/13/2022) were not extended by Senate Bill 23-102 and therefore expired 05/15/2023.