

**ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
MODIFYING THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR A  
VETERINARIAN RENEWING A VETERINARY PRESCRIPTION FOR A  
CHRONIC CONDITION AS SET FORTH IN CODE OF MARYLAND  
REGULATIONS (COMAR) 15.14.01.12-1(G)**

Pursuant to Governor Hogan's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, allowing the head of each unit of State government to suspend the effect of a time expiration, period of time, or other time of an act described in State law, on this 3rd of April, 2020, I hereby ORDER that:

1. The requirement set forth in COMAR 15.14.01.12-1(G) requiring a veterinarian to have examined a patient at least once during the 12-month period before renewing any prescription medication for a chronic condition, and prohibiting renewal of a prescription without a physical examination conducted in the previous 12-months is modified as follows:
  - a) During the time of the declared state of emergency, a veterinarian shall have examined a patient at least once during the preceding 18-months before renewing any prescription medication for a chronic condition; and
  - b) Before renewing a prescription without having conducted a physical examination in the last 12-months, the veterinarian shall determine whether the need for the prescription outweighs any risks associated with renewing the prescription and discuss that determination with the client.

Unless rescinded beforehand, this Order shall continue until no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the state of emergency is rescinded by the Governor. In issuing this Order, I have determined that this suspension does not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety of the people of Maryland.



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Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Agriculture