

Alaska State Medical Board

Policies and Procedures

Board Issued Guidelines	Section 6
Subject:	<i>Telemedicine</i>
Implemented:	January 20-21, 2011
Revised:	May 17-18, 2012; November 6-7, 2014; August 3-4, 2017; December 14, 2017
<p>In order to provide care for a patient in the State of Alaska (including reading and interpreting films, samples, or images, or otherwise diagnosing, treating, or rendering an opinion), a physician must hold a current, active license issued by the Alaska State Medical Board. This requirement also applies to second opinions if the physician is charging a fee for providing the opinion. The only exception is for a “curbside” opinion given as a courtesy to a colleague (a licensed physician) for which there is <u>no charge</u>.</p> <p>A <u>physician</u> may render a diagnosis, provide treatment, or prescribe, dispense, or administer a prescription drug, without first conducting a physical exam, however:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the treating physician must be licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board; • the treating physician, another licensed health care provider, or a physician in the treating physician’s group practice, must be available to provide follow-up care; • the treating physician must request that the patient consent to sending a copy of the records to the patient’s primary care provider (if the treating physician is not the primary care provider); • a physically separated physician may prescribe, dispense, or administer a controlled drug only if an appropriate licensed health care provider is physically present with the patient; • the treating physician must practice in accordance with all relevant laws and practice standards, including compliance with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the American Medical Association (AMA) guiding principles for telemedicine practice, published in the <i>AMA Council on Medical Service Reports, Coverage of and Payment for Telemedicine</i> (adopted June 2014); and - the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) <i>Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine</i> (adopted April 2014). • the physician may not prescribe, dispense, or administer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a prescription drug in response to an Internet questionnaire or electronic mail message to a person with whom the physician does not have a prior physician-patient relationship; or - an abortion-inducing drug, unless the physician complies with Alaska Statute (AS) 18.16.010 	
-continued on next page-	

Alaska State Medical Board

Policies and Procedures

-continued from previous page-

A **physician assistant** may (subject to their collaborative plan) prescribe, dispense, or furnish a prescription medication to a person without first conducting a physical examination, only if there is an established patient-physician assistant relationship; except

- for use in emergency treatment
- for expedited partner therapy for sexually transmitted diseases; or
- in response to an infectious disease investigation, public health emergency, infectious disease outbreak, or act of bioterrorism.

A patient-physician assistant relationship is established when there is an in-person physical examination of the patient by the physician assistant, or by the collaborating physician, or by another physician or physician assistant in the same group practice, and the patient record is available to the treating physician assistant.

Alaska Telemedicine Business Registry: Before providing telemedicine services to a patient located in the State of Alaska, a business providing telemedicine services must register on the telemedicine business registry.