

655—7.9(152) Standards of practice for telehealth.

7.9(1) Telehealth permitted. A licensee may, in accordance with all applicable laws and rules, provide health care services to a patient through telehealth.

7.9(2) License required. An advanced registered nurse practitioner who provides services through telehealth to a patient physically located in Iowa must be licensed by the board. A licensee who provides services through telehealth to a patient physically located in another state shall be subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the state where the patient is physically located.

7.9(3) Standard of care.

a. A licensee who provides services through telehealth shall be held to the same standard of care as is applicable to in-person settings. A licensee shall not perform any service via telehealth unless the same standard of care can be achieved as if the service was performed in person.

b. Prior to initiating contact with a patient for the purpose of providing services to the patient using telehealth, a licensee shall:

(1) Review the patient's history and all relevant medical records; and

(2) Determine as to each unique patient encounter whether the licensee will be able to provide the same standard of care using telehealth as would be provided if the services were provided in person.

7.9(4) Scope of practice. A licensee who provides services through telehealth must practice within the licensee's respective population foci and ensure the services provided are consistent with the licensee's scope of practice, education, training, and experience.

7.9(5) Practitioner-patient relationship.

a. Prior to providing services through telehealth, the licensee shall first establish a practitioner-patient relationship. A practitioner-patient relationship is established when:

(1) The person with a health-related matter seeks assistance from the licensee;

(2) The licensee agrees to provide services; and

(3) The person agrees to be treated, or the person's legal guardian or legal representative agrees to the person's being treated, by the licensee regardless of whether there has been a previous in-person encounter between the licensee and the person.

b. A practitioner-patient relationship can be established through an in-person encounter, consultation with another licensee or health care provider, or telehealth encounter.

c. Notwithstanding paragraphs 7.9(5) "a" and "b," services may be provided through telehealth without first establishing a practitioner-patient relationship in the following settings or circumstances:

(1) Institutional settings;

(2) Licensed or certified nursing facilities, residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospice settings;

(3) In response to an emergency or disaster;

(4) Informal consultations with another health care provider performed by a licensee outside of the context of a contractual relationship, or on an irregular or infrequent basis, without the expectation or exchange of direct or indirect compensation;

(5) Episodic consultations by a specialist located in another jurisdiction who provides consultation services upon request to a licensee;

(6) A substitute licensee acting on behalf and at the designation of an absent licensee or other health care provider in the same specialty on an on-call or cross-coverage basis; or

(7) When a sexually transmitted disease has been diagnosed in a patient, a licensee prescribes or dispenses antibiotics to the patient's named sexual partner(s) for the treatment of the sexually transmitted disease as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

7.9(6) Consent to telehealth. Prior to providing services via telehealth, the licensee shall obtain consent from the patient, or the patient's legal guardian or legal representative, to receive services via telehealth.

7.9(7) Technology. A licensee providing services through telehealth shall utilize technology that is secure and compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The technology must be of sufficient quality, size, resolution, and clarity such that the licensee can safely and effectively provide the telehealth services and abide by the applicable standard of care.

7.9(8) Prescriptions. A licensee providing services through telehealth may issue a prescription to a patient as long as the issuance of such prescription is consistent with the standard of care applicable to the in-person setting.

7.9(9) Records. A licensee who provides services through telehealth shall maintain a record of the care provided to the patient. Such records shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, standards of care for recordkeeping, confidentiality, and disclosure of a patient's medical record.

7.9(10) Follow-up care. A licensee who provides services through telehealth shall refer a patient for follow-up care when required by the standard of care.

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