



Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

TELEHEALTH FACT SHEET

Introduction

Under Governor Hogan's leadership, executive orders have provided a broadening of telehealth access so that health care services may be provided to the public without travel to a health care site. Contained in this fact sheet are excerpts defining telehealth and excerpts pertaining to the providing of physical therapy services through telehealth

MDBPTE POSITION STATEMENT

REFER TO COMPLETE DOCUMENT HERE: <https://health.maryland.gov/bphte/Pages/index.aspx#>

- (1) Physical therapy practitioners must hold a valid Maryland license prior to providing physical therapy services via telehealth to clients physically located in Maryland; and,
- (2) The practice of physical therapy, via telehealth or otherwise, in the State of Maryland must be in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, Title 13, and The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), 10.38.01 – 10.38.11. Adopted by the Board: February 19, 2019

COMAR 10.38.03.01 (B)(21)

"Supervising physical therapist" means a physical therapist who provides ongoing supervision to a physical therapist assistant regarding the care of a patient. Nothing prohibits supervision of/communication with the PTA being via telecommunication. Supervision of an aide cannot be remote.

COMAR 10.38.01.01(B)(12) "Ongoing supervision" means that the physical therapist maintains continuing verbal and written contact with the physical therapist assistant to provide supervision and instruction adequate to ensure the safety and welfare of the patient.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Physical therapy practitioners must hold a valid Maryland license prior to providing physical therapy services via telehealth to clients physically located in Maryland

COVID-19 EXCERPTS ONLY

REFER TO COMPLETE DOCUMENTS HERE: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

Governor Hogan Executive Orders (March 5, 2020; March 7, 2020 rev.; April 1, 2020 rev.)

- That health care practitioners licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide health care services be permitted in Maryland to provide those services through the use of telecommunications technologies (“telehealth”), including audio-only calls or conversations, while complying with the same standards of practice that are applicable to in-person health care settings.

- Subject to paragraphs III, IV, and V of this Order, the Secretary of Health may, through directives, rules, or guidelines, authorize a health care practitioner to deliver health care services through the use of telecommunications technologies (“telehealth”), as well as audio-only calls or conversations, to a patient at a different physical location than the health care practitioner, provided that:
 - a. The health care services delivered are:
 - i. Clinically appropriate; and
 - ii. Within the scope of practice of the health care practitioner; and
 - b. The health care practitioner:
 - i. Is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide health care services in the state;
 - ii. Complies with the same standards of practice that are applicable to the provision of health care services in in-person health care settings;
 - iii. Documents in a patient’s medical record the health care services provided through telehealth or audio-only calls or conversations, according to the same documentation standards used for in-patient health care services; and
 - iv. If using audio-only calls or conversations, can interact with the patient at the time the health care service is provided.

KEY TAKAWAY

- The health care practitioner: i. Is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide health care services in the state

Emergency HB 448 / SB 402 (Approved by the Governor April 3, 2020)

- A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH MUST BE LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE STATE IF THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED TO A PATIENT LOCATED IN THE STATE.

- Definition of telehealth: Means a mode of delivering health care services through the use of telecommunications technologies by a health care practitioner to a patient at a different physical location than the health care practitioner. “Telehealth” includes synchronous and asynchronous interactions. “Telehealth” does not include the provision of health care services solely through audio-only calls, email messages, or facsimile transmissions.

- The use of telecommunications technologies (“telehealth”), may include audio-only calls or conversations, while complying with the same standards of practice that are applicable to in-person health care settings where therapeutically appropriate, in accordance with the individual therapist's competency, the standards of care and practice, and the Board's relevant documentation requirements, during the COVID-19 emergency.

KEY TAKAWAY

- A healthcare practitioner providing health care services through Telehealth must be licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide health care services in the state if the health care services are being provided to a patient located in the state.

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