

Date: March 9, 2017

To: AHS Physicians

From: Dr. Jonathan Choy, Medical Director, AHS Clinical Telehealth Services

RE: Physician Licensure Requirements for Out-of-Province Telemedicine Events with Patients

Physicians planning to practice Telemedicine with patients anywhere in Canada outside of the jurisdiction where they are licensed are strongly encouraged to contact the College of Physicians & Surgeons or Professional Licensing office of their patient's province or territory, describing the Telemedicine service they wish to provide. The Registrar's office will then verify physician registration and licensing requirements for Telemedicine for out-of-province physicians.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) Clinical Telehealth Services has received a number of inquiries regarding licensure requirements when seeing patients located in other provinces via Telehealth. For example, if a physician sees an out-of-province patient who has been referred to a specialist in Alberta, the physician may choose to provide follow-up care via Telehealth after the patient has returned to their home province, to save the patient time, travel and reduce costs. To help manage these types of scenarios, AHS Clinical Telehealth Service has gathered information from the Colleges of Physician & Surgeons and Professional Licensing Registrars in Western Canada, given that the majority of referrals to AHS come from that geographical area.

Physician licensing requirements for Telemedicine vary across Canada. The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) defines Telemedicine as "the provision of medical expertise for the purpose of diagnosis and patient care by means of telecommunications and information technology where the patient and the provider are separated by distance. Telemedicine may include, but is not limited to, the provision of pathology, medical imaging and patient consultative services."

As a general guideline, the information on the attached page is accurate as of October, 2016 and is subject to change at any time.

Please direct questions related to this information to Dr. Choy at: jonathan.choy@ahs.ca or to the Telehealth Info Intake at telehealth.info@ahs.ca

Physician Licensure Requirements for Out-of-Province Telemedicine Events with Patients

College of Physicians & Surgeons or Professional Licensing Registrar	Licensure Requirements for Out of Province Physicians	Additional Information
<u>British Columbia and Manitoba</u>	Licensure is not required for Telemedicine events	No licensure is required at this time in British Columbia or Manitoba for out-of-province physicians practicing Telemedicine.
<u>Northwest Territories</u>	Prior to any Telemedicine event	Up to two temporary 3 month permits can be requested and granted per fiscal year, after which the annual license would be recommended.
<u>Saskatchewan</u>	Prior to any Telemedicine patient	Fees apply for licenses 'limited to Telemedicine' at no cost up to 12 patients. Fees apply after 12 up to 52 patients and increase for more than 52 patients per year. Exception: There is no licensure requirement for follow up care when a referred Saskatchewan patient has been seen in the consulting physician's province and has returned home. The Telemedicine event by the out-of-province (consulting) physician is related to the condition the referral was made for, and the referring Saskatchewan physician continues the ongoing care of the patient.
<u>Yukon</u>	After 5 Telemedicine events	3 Month Permits and Annual Physician Licenses for > 3 months are available. Exception: There is no licensure requirement for an event for emergency assessment or treatment of a patient.

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