



Waiving State Licensing Restrictions for Telehealth Helps Combat COVID-19

Requirements that a provider be licensed in the state where a patient is located present significant challenges to rapidly expanding access to care via telehealth as we work to combat COVID-19. There are several actions Governors can take immediately to facilitate the use of telehealth and safely expand virtual care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNORS AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS

The following steps will help ensure timely triaging for COVID-19 and treatment for other illnesses:

- Waive medically unnecessary restrictions that limit care via telehealth
- Provide more flexibility on:
 - Advanced practice provider supervision
 - The type of telehealth modalities and technologies providers can use
 - Specific technologies to establish a patient-provider relationship for diagnosis and treatment recommendations, so long as the standard of care is met
- Waive licensure regulations for qualified out-of-state clinicians in good standing
- Waive licensure requirements for clinicians to obtain special approval during the emergency

STATES LEADING THE WAY

As of March 24, 2020, more than twenty-five states have taken some action to address licensure restrictions to fill provider shortages and ensure access to care.¹ States that have demonstrated leadership by allowing providers to start practicing immediately or provide streamlined registration:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| ✓ Connecticut | ✓ Indiana | ✓ New York |
| ✓ Delaware | ✓ Iowa | ✓ North Carolina |
| ✓ Florida | ✓ Mississippi | ✓ North Dakota |
| ✓ Kansas | ✓ Missouri | ✓ Pennsylvania |
| ✓ Idaho | ✓ New Jersey | ✓ Tennessee |

EXAMPLE LANGUAGE: NORTH CAROLINA

"I hereby temporarily waive North Carolina licensure requirements for health care and behavioral health care personnel who are licensed in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia to provide health care services within the Emergency Area."

– N.C. Governor Roy Cooper, Executive order No. 116

Providers should be able to use every tool at their disposal to help keep health care workers safe and ensure scarce resources are reserved for individuals in need of in-person care. We encourage states that have not already waived unnecessary restrictions to do so as soon as possible to ensure health care providers can quickly expand access to virtual services.

¹ Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah