



August 10, 2021

Mr. Peter T. Beaudette, MD
Chair, New Mexico Medical Board
2055 S. Pacheco St., Building 400
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Ms. Karen Carson, M.D.
Vice Chair, New Mexico Medical Board
2055 S. Pacheco St., Building 400
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: ATA COMMENTS ON OUT-OF-STATE LICENSURE FOR TELEMEDICINE

Dear Mr. Beaudette and Ms. Carson,

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) and the over 400 organizations we represent, I am writing to contribute to the Board's upcoming discussion of licensure exceptions for out-of-state providers treating New Mexico patients via telemedicine technology.

The ATA is the only national organization whose mission revolves solely around the advancement of telemedicine in the United States. Our utmost priority is ensuring that Americans can access affordable, high-quality health care at any place and any time. The expansion of telemedicine infrastructure around the country eases strain on the overburdened health care system, enabling it to provide care for millions more patients every year in an efficient and effective manner. The ATA represents a diverse and expansive coalition of technology solution providers and payers, as well as partner organizations and alliances, working together to promote the implementation of telemedicine across the country, endorse responsible telemedicine policy, encourage government and market normalization, and deliver education and resources designed to further the integration of virtual care through the use of various innovative technologies.

Our organization would like to voice our support for the continuation of the pandemic-related licensure exceptions for out-of-state providers using the appropriate telemedicine technologies to treat patients located in New Mexico.

Throughout the pandemic, providers across the country have relied increasingly on synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (store-and-forward) telemedicine technologies to perform patient evaluations and diagnoses in a variety of medical fields. In addition, medical professionals are utilizing remote patient monitoring technologies to move care out of the hospital, clinic, or doctor's office and into the home, where providers can monitor, collect, and analyze a patient's physiologic data to create care management plans for patients, especially those with chronic conditions.



By promulgating rules that grant practice privileges to out-of-state health care providers who are licensed and maintain good standing in their own states, the Board enables these providers to connect with patients whenever and wherever the patients' need for care arises. As the COVID-19 pandemic resurges across the country with the emergence of the Delta variant, we are seeing a sizable uptick in the number of patients utilizing telemedicine to receive their care as they elect to stay out of areas of high transmissibility, such as doctor's offices and hospitals. By extending the waiver, the Board ensures that patients can continue to get timely care and avoid having to enter potentially dangerous brick-and-mortar locations.

Rules permitting flexibility in licensure for out-of-state providers help to remove arbitrary geographical barriers that would limit New Mexicans' access to the health care services they want, need, and deserve. The ATA believes that patients should be able to receive virtual care from their preferred provider, regardless of that provider's physical location, so long as the practitioners are utilizing the appropriate technology to uphold the established standard of care and can still be held accountable by the presiding Boards and state agencies should any issues arise from treatment.

Thank you for your interest in telemedicine. We urge you and your colleagues to extend licensure flexibilities for out-of-state practitioners in the interest of ensuring that New Mexico residents have access to high-quality, affordable health care. This is a critical time for policymakers to do everything in their power to increase the number of practitioners available for New Mexico citizens. The extension of this waiver would do just that.

Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to develop practical telemedicine rules in New Mexico. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further the telemedicine industry's perspective, please contact me at kzebley@americantelemed.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley", written in a cursive style.

Kyle Zebley

Public Policy Director

American Telemedicine Association