



APRN COVID-19 FAQ's

Q: Can I use telehealth to see my patients during the state of emergency proclamation?

A: You may provide telehealth services with or without a DEA registration. The proclamation allows for relaxation of the rules by the Board of Nursing regarding a face-to-face physical examination and also lifted the drug screening requirements prior to the writing of a chronic opioid or benzo prescription.

For additional information concerning the writing of controlled substances in relation to virtual visits, please see

<https://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/coronavirus.html> for more telehealth information for DEA prescription issuance.

DEA Telehealth Guidance. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued new guidance to allow DEA-registered telehealth practitioners to issue prescriptions for controlled substances to patients for whom they have not conducted an in-person medical evaluation, for the duration of the public health emergency. All of the following conditions must be met: (1) The prescription is issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a practitioner acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice (2) The telemedicine communication is conducted using an audio-visual, real-time, two-way interactive communication system and (3) The practitioner is acting in accordance with applicable Federal and State law.

Q: If I do telemedicine visits for patients, do I need special permission from board or a specific site added to my approved places?

A: If the practice site from which the telehealth virtual visits are made is already approved on the Nurse Gateway Portal no additional approval is necessary from the BON.

If the telehealth is conducted through a new site or clinic that is not listed on the APRN Nurse Gateway Portal, then the site will need to be submitted and approved by the BON.

Q: I had an appointment to come to the BON to get fingerprinted. Because of the COVID-19 changes, what do I need to do?

A: You can contact the criminal background division for additional information at CShellman@msbn.ms.gov or FTeague@msbn.ms.gov

Q: Where can I find information about writing for controlled substances during this time?

A: Please see <https://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/coronavirus.html> for more telehealth regs for DEA Rx writing.

Q: Where can I find information about COVID-19 testing?

A: You can find the latest healthcare professional information on the MS State Department of Health's webpage at <https://www.msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/14,0,420,694.html>

Q: How do I bill for telehealth visits?

A: The Board of Nursing has no rules or regulations regarding billing practices. It is recommended that you contact the insurance carrier regarding how to bill for telehealth services during this state of emergency.

Q: Where are the rules and regulations for Medicaid and Medicare patients regarding telehealth?

A: MS Division of Medicaid <https://medicaid.ms.gov/coronavirus-updates/>
CMS <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>