



**Joint Meeting of the Florida Board of Medicine &  
Osteopathic Medicine  
Telemedicine Subcommittee Meeting**

**Tampa Airport Marriott  
4200 George J. Bean Parkway  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 879-5151**

**Thursday  
November 14, 2013**

1       **64B8-9.0141 Standards for Telemedicine Practice.**

2           (1) "Telemedicine" means the practice of medicine by a licensed Florida physician or  
3 physician assistant where patient care, treatment, or services are provided through the use of  
4 medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications.

5 Telemedicine shall not include the provision of health care services only through an audio only  
6 telephone, email messages, text messages, facsimile transmission, U.S. Mail or other parcel  
7 service, or any combination thereof.

8           (2) The standard of care, as defined in s. 456.50(1)(e), F.S., shall remain the same regardless  
9 of whether a Florida licensed physician or physician assistant provides health care services in  
10 person or by telemedicine.

11          (3) Florida licensed physicians and physician assistants providing health care services by  
12 telemedicine are responsible for the quality of the equipment and technology employed and are  
13 responsible for their safe use. Telemedicine equipment and technology must be able to provide,  
14 at a minimum, the same information to the physician and physician assistant which will enable  
15 them to meet or exceed the prevailing standard of care for the practice of medicine as if the  
16 ~~information had been obtained in person.~~

17          (4) Controlled substances shall not be prescribed through the use of telemedicine; however,  
18 a controlled substance may be prescribed where there is a prior established physician/patient  
19 relationship and prior diagnosis for the specific medical condition for which the prescribed  
20 controlled substance is sought. The physician may prescribe a dosage that will last until the next  
21 business day, but under no circumstances shall the physician prescribe more than a 72-hour dose  
22 of controlled substances.

23 (5) The practice of medicine by telemedicine does not alter any obligation of the physician  
24 or the physician assistant regarding patient confidentiality or recordkeeping.

25 (6) A physician-patient relationship may be established through telemedicine.

26 (7) (5) (a) Nothing contained in this rule shall prohibit consultations between physicians or  
27 the transmission and review of digital images, pathology specimens, test results, or other medical  
28 data by physicians or other qualified providers related to the care of Florida patients.

29 (b) This rule does not apply to emergency medical services provided by emergency  
30 physicians, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and emergency dispatchers.

31 (c) The provisions of this rule shall not apply where a physician or physician assistant is  
32 treating a patient with an emergency medical condition that requires immediate medical care.

33 An emergency medical condition is a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of  
34 sufficient severity that the absence of immediate medical attention will result in serious jeopardy  
35 to patient health, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of a body organ  
36 or part.

37 Rulemaking Authority: 458.331(1)(v), FS.

38 Law Implemented: 458.331(1)(v), FS.

39 History --- New

1     **64B15-14.0081 Standards for Telemedicine Practice.**

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5 Telemedicine shall not include the provision of health care services only through an audio only  
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35 to patient health, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of a body organ  
36 or part.

37 Rulemaking Authority: 459.015(1)(z), FS.

38 Law Implemented: 459.015(1)(z), FS.

39 History --- New