OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS

Guidelines on Telemedicine

Telemedicine is an ever-changing technology used for the care and education of patients in the State of Oklahoma by Osteopathic Physicians. This policy is to provide guidelines for the regulation of telemedicine and to physicians participating in telemedicine.

Definitions:

A. **Telemedicine** is the practice of medicine using electronic communications, information technology, or other means between a physician in one location and a patient in another location with or without an intervening health care professional. Telemedicine may be used to accomplish an appropriate physician-patient relationship.

B. **Physician-Patient Relationship** implies the following:

1. A face-to-face encounter with a person requesting medical care from a physician;
2. Conducting an appropriate exam of the patient that meets applicable standards of care;
3. Establishing a diagnosis using acceptable medical practices, i.e. a patient history, mental status and physical examination, and appropriate diagnostic and laboratory testing;
4. Discussing with the patient the diagnosis, risks and benefits of various treatment options to obtain informed consent;
5. Insuring the availability for appropriate follow-up care; and
6. Maintaining a complete medical record available to the patient and other treating health care providers.

C. **Distant Site** is the site where the physician providing the patient care is located at the time the service is provided via audio/video telecommunication.

D. **Originating Site** is the site where the patient receiving patient care is located at the time the service is being performed by a physician via audio/video telecommunications.

E. **Health Care Professional** means an Oklahoma licensed or certified health care professional other than an M.D. or D.O.

F. **Presenter** means a health care professional that is at the originating site with the patient and, at the start of the telemedicine visit, presents the patient to the physician at the distant site via audio/video telecommunications.
G. **Store and forward** means the asynchronous transmission of medical information to be reviewed at a later time by a physician at the distant site. A patient’s medical information may include, but is not limited to, video clips, still images, x-rays, MRI’s, EKG’s, EEG’s, laboratory results, audio clips, and text. The physician at the distant site reviews the case without the patient being present.

H. **Video conferencing** means conferences and/or consultations between the patient, the presenter and the physician held live over distances via audio/video communications.

**Guidelines:**

Licensure – Participation in telemedicine activities involving patients in Oklahoma by an Osteopathic Physician requires a full, unrestricted license. (A person, within or outside of this state, who performs through electronic communications diagnostic or treatment services within the scope of practice of an osteopathic physician and surgeon for any patient whose condition is being diagnosed or treated within this state shall be licensed in this state, pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Medicine Act.)

Prescribing – Any osteopathic physician licensed in this state who engages in the prescription of drugs, devices, or treatments via electronic means may do so only in the context of an appropriate physician/patient relationship wherein a proper patient record is maintained including, at the minimum, a current history and physical.

Presenter – A licensed or certified health care professional must always be present at the originating site when direct patient care is involved in video conferencing/consultation. A presenter is not required for the store and forward procedures.

Non-resident Physicians – There must be a local physician or licensed health provider to receive, interpret and apply the diagnosis made by the non-resident physician and that the treatment of the patient remain in the hands of the attending or supervising physician. This does not relieve the consultant of his responsibility to maintain proper standards of practice and insure accurate transmission of information.