

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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February 23, 2018

RE: Telemedicine in Louisiana

Dear Doctor:

As you know, at its January 2018 meeting the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") considered your request that the Board provide "[A]n advisory opinion or some sort of public statement regarding what the Board believes to be the standard of care with respect to telemedicine provided to patients in the home." The Board asked that I thank you for your inquiry and appearance at its meeting and relay its response.

As made clear by Louisiana law¹ and the Board's rules,² which detail what is expected and necessary for compliance with respect to the use of telemedicine in this state, the standard of care is the same whether the healthcare services are provided in person or by telemedicine.³ Stated differently, if a physician's treatment of a patient by way of telemedicine would satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical practice as those in a traditional face-to-face setting, it would comply with the laws and rules governing telemedicine.

As we have previously conveyed, the Board is of the view that telemedicine technology may be effectively utilized to expand availability, accessibility and affordability of medical care to the citizens of this state. That is not to say, however, that physicians will not be presented with medical encounters that cannot be adequately addressed conformably with applicable standards through the use of this technology.

¹La. R.S. 37:1262(4), 1271(B), 1271.1 and 1276.1;

²LAC 46:XLV.7501-7521.

³La. R.S. 37:1271B.(2)(a), (4)(b); LAC 46:XLV. 7505B.

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We trust this reply is responsive to your inquiry. If not, or if you have specific questions or concerns that have not been addressed by this reply, we invite you to let us know. Otherwise, we remain

Very truly yours,



Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D.
Executive Director