

TELEMEDICINE – CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

At the April meeting of the Arkansas State Medical Board, the Board voted to allow prescribers to see patients and prescribe controlled substance medications via telemedicine for a six-month period during the current COVID-19 health crisis, so long as the prescription is a refill only and not a change of any kind to the current medication the patient receives.

TELEMEDICINE – EXISTING PATIENTS AND ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP

Rule 2.8 (patient/provider relationship) and Rule 38 (Telemedicine) remain in full effect. The Governor's Executive Order 20-05 changed how a physician may initiate the patient/physician relationship in that it suspended the need for "in-person" or "real time audio/visual". It states that "physicians licensed in Arkansas who have access to a patient's personal health record maintained by a physician may establish a professional relationship with a patient using any technology deemed appropriate by the provider, including the telephone, with a citizen located in Arkansas to diagnose, treat and if clinically appropriate, prescribed a non-controlled drug to that patient." The use of telemedicine for existing patients was not altered by Executive Order 20-05.

Rule 2.4, Rule 2.8 and Rule 38 – Medical Practices Act:

<https://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/pdf/mpa.pdf>

Governor's Executive Order 20-05:

https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-05.pdf