

**OHIO****What is the definition of “telemedicine” or “telehealth”?**

In the portion of the Ohio Revised Code discussing Medicaid State Plan Services, “‘telehealth service’ means a health care service delivered to a patient through the use of interactive audio, video, or other telecommunications or electronic technology from a site other than the site where the patient is located.”

[OHIO REV. CODE § 5164.95\(A\).](#)

The Ohio Administrative Code’s chapter discussing Medicaid states the following:

“‘Telemedicine’ is the direct delivery of services to a patient via synchronous, interactive, real-time electronic communication that comprises both audio and video elements. The following activities are not telemedicine:

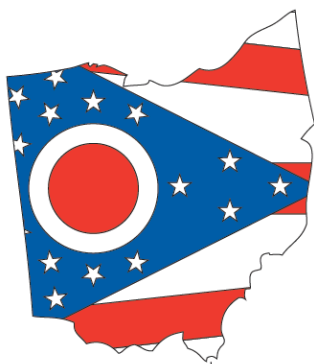
- (a) The delivery of service by electronic mail, telephone, or facsimile transmission;
- (b) Conversations between practitioners regarding the patient without the patient present either physically or via synchronous, interactive, real-time electronic communication; and
- (c) Audio-video communication related to the delivery of service in an intensive care unit.”

[OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 5160-1-18\(A\)\(1\).](#)

**PSYCHIATRISTS****Are there any licensing requirements specific to telemedicine/telehealth (e.g., requirements to be licensed in the state where the patient is located)?**

According to a 2012 position statement on telemedicine issued by the State Medical Board of Ohio, “[t]he practice of medicine is deemed to occur in the state in which the patient is located. Therefore, any licensee using telemedicine to regularly provide medical services to patients located in Ohio should be licensed to practice medicine in Ohio. Licensees need not reside in Ohio, as long as they have a valid, current Ohio medical license or telemedicine certificate.”

[State Medical Board of Ohio, \*Position Statement on Telemedicine\* \(May 12, 2012\), at 2.](#)

**OHIO****SOCIAL WORKERS**

What are the acceptable modalities (e.g., telephone, video) for the practice of social work via telemedicine/telehealth that meet the standard of care for the state?

None identified.

However, “telephonic” technology is not included in the Ohio Administrative Code’s definition of “electronic service delivery”:

“‘Electronic service delivery’ (electronic therapy, cyber therapy, e-therapy, etc.) means counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy in any form offered or rendered primarily by electronic or technology-assisted approaches , except telephonic, when the counselor, social worker or marriage and family therapist and the client are not located in the same place during delivery of services.”

[OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 4757-3-01\(EE\).](#)

**COUNSELORS**

What are the acceptable modalities (e.g., telephone, video) for the practice of counseling via telemedicine/telehealth that meet the standard of care for the state?

None identified.

However, “telephonic” technology is not included in the Ohio Administrative Code’s definition of “electronic service delivery”:

“‘Electronic service delivery’ (electronic therapy, cyber therapy, e-therapy, etc.) means counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy in any form offered or rendered primarily by electronic or technology-assisted approaches , except telephonic, when the counselor, social worker or marriage and family therapist and the client are not located in the same place during delivery of services.”

[OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 4757-3-01\(EE\).](#)

**OHIO****MARRIAGE/FAMILY THERAPISTS**

What are the acceptable modalities (e.g., telephone, video) for the practice of marriage/family therapy via telemedicine/telehealth that meet the standard of care for the state?

None identified.

However, “telephonic” technology is not included in the Ohio Administrative Code’s definition of “electronic service delivery”:

“‘Electronic service delivery’ (electronic therapy, cyber therapy, e-therapy, etc.) means counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy in any form offered or rendered primarily by electronic or technology-assisted approaches , except telephonic, when the counselor, social worker or marriage and family therapist and the client are not located in the same place during delivery of services.”

[OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 4757-3-01\(E\).](#)

**PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY**

Are there privacy/confidentiality requirements specifically related to telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services?

According Ohio regulations, when Ohio practitioners of counseling, social work, and/or marriage and family therapy use “electronic service delivery” certain standards apply, including the following:

“Confidentiality in electronic service delivery shall be maintained by the licensee:

(1) Licensees shall use encryption methods for electronic service delivery, except for treatment reminders, scheduling contacts or other information provided outside of a therapeutic context; and

(2) Shall inform electronic service delivery clients details of data record storage.”

[OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 4757-5-13\(B\).](#)



## OHIO

### FOLLOW-UP CARE

What are the requirements regarding follow-up care for telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services?

According to the State Medical Board of Ohio's position statement on telemedicine, "[l]icensees using telemedicine should also ensure the availability for appropriate follow-up care and maintain a complete medical record that is available to the patient and other treating health care providers."

[State Medical Board of Ohio, \*Position Statement on Telemedicine\* \(May 12, 2012\), at 2.](#)