

IOWA

PSYCHOLOGISTS

Does a psychologist have prescribing authority? If so, under what conditions/limits may a psychologist prescribe via telemedicine/telehealth?

Psychologists only may prescribe psychotropic medications if they hold a valid prescription certificate issued by the Iowa Board of Psychology.

[IOWA CODE §§ 154B.1, 154B.11, 154B.12.](#)

[Iowa Medical Society, *Issue Spotlight: Psychologist Prescribing* \(Jan. 22, 2016\).](#)

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES (APRNs)¹

What are the restrictions on the scope of practice for APRNs practicing via telemedicine/telehealth?

In a February 2015 statement, the Iowa Board of Nursing said that, in the event that a patient “travels outside of Iowa and calls into their local physician’s office/clinic or a 24 hour nurse call center,” a registered nurse with a current Iowa license practicing within the guidelines of the Iowa Administrative Code may “answer the patient’s questions or give advice to the patient” if the patient is only in transit and does not reside in another state.”

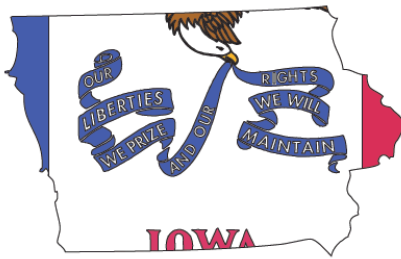
In a February 2015 statement, the Iowa Board of Nursing said that, in the event that a patient residing outside of Iowa calls into an Iowa-based “physician’s office/clinic or 24 hour nurse call center,” a registered nurse may answer the patient’s questions or give advice to the patient if “the state in which the patient is calling from is a member of the nurse licensure compact agreement.”

[Iowa Board of Nursing, *Provision of Nursing Services by Telehealth / Electronic Means* \(Feb. 2015\).](#)

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

The Iowa Board of Nursing issued guidelines in February 2015 related to telehealth nursing, stating that “nurses who respond to telephone calls from patients calling from

¹ The Iowa Board of Nursing has confirmed that, although the February 2015 statement is targeted towards the registered nurse scope of practice, the telehealth requirements within the statement may apply to APRNs practicing in Iowa.



IOWA

Iowa shall have a current Iowa license, whether or not the employer is in Iowa or whether or not the person receives compensation.” A nurse also must “practice within the guidelines of the Iowa Administrative Code.”

[Iowa Board of Nursing, *Provision of Nursing Services by Telehealth/Electronic Means* \(Feb. 2015\).](#)

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

In a February 2015 statement, the Iowa Board of Nursing stated that the use of “telecommunications and health technologies, such as audio, video, or data integrated into [a nurse’s] existing practice” is considered the practice of “telehealth nursing.”

[Iowa Board of Nursing, *Provision of Nursing Services by Telehealth/Electronic Means* \(Feb. 2015\).](#)

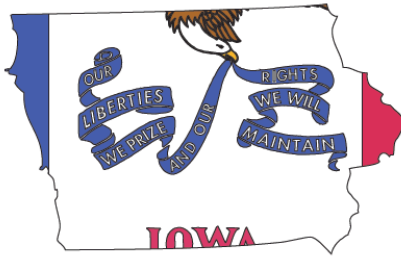
PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

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

According to an Iowa regulation describing standards of practice for the provision of telemedicine services, “[a] licensee who uses telemedicine shall ensure that all telemedicine encounters comply with the privacy and security measures of [HIPAA] to ensure that all patient communications and records are secure and remain confidential.”

The regulation further provides that written protocols must be established (and reviewed periodically) that address the following:

- “Privacy;
- Health care personnel who will process messages;
- Hours of operation;
- Types of transactions that will be permitted electronically;
- Required patient information to be included in the communication, including patient name, identification number and type of transaction;
- Archiving and retrieval; and
- Quality oversight mechanisms.”



IOWA

Further, the written protocols must “include sufficient privacy and security measures to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of patient-identifiable information, including password protection, encryption or other reliable authentication techniques.”

[IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 653-13.11\(15\).](#)

COVERAGE & REIMBURSEMENT

Does Medicaid provide coverage for telemental/telebehavioral/telesychiatric health services? If so, what are the coverage criteria?

“Health care services provided through in-person consultations or through telehealth shall be treated as equivalent services for the purposes of reimbursement.”

[IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 441-78.55\(249A\).](#)