

Guide for virtual care for SSRs and staff

Last updated: July 8, 2022

The requirements for virtual care vary by jurisdiction.

Prior to engaging in virtual care, licensure and professional liability insurance requirements of the jurisdiction the patient is physically located at the time of encounter must be satisfied.

1) Licensure

In Alberta, CPSA position:

A regulated member providing virtual care must be aware of and comply with licensing requirements of the jurisdiction in which the patient is located.

In British Columbia, CPSBC position:

Physicians who are located outside of BC and hold an active license with another regulatory body (e.g. CPSA) do not need to obtain an additional license to provide care to patients in BC.

Alberta trainees are not licensed to perform virtual care to patients in BC (Justin Chen, personal communication with CPSBC Registration).

In Saskatchewan, CPSS position:

The College accepts that a physician who practices telemedicine (a medical service provided remotely via information and communication technology. Remotely: without physical contact and does not necessarily involve long distances) is practicing medicine in Saskatchewan and is required by The Medical Profession Act, 1981 to be licensed with the College of Physicians and Surgeons to do so.

The College offers a telemedicine license to physicians who only practice medicine in Saskatchewan by telemedicine. The cost of such a license is dependent on the number of telemedicine services that are provided by the physician. The license is offered at no cost to physicians who will limit their practice of telemedicine to no more than twelve Saskatchewan patients per year. A license is offered at a reduced cost for physicians who will limit their practice of telemedicine to no more than fifty-two Saskatchewan patients per year.

AB trainees are not licensed to perform virtual care to patients in SK.

In NWT, NWT Health and Social Services Authority position:

NWT's Minister of Health and Social Services has approved exemption from NWT licensing and exemption requirements for the provision of telemedicine to patients residing in the NWT, by

Physicians in good standing on the CPSA's general register and having a referral for the care provided from a NWT Physician.

AB trainees are not licensed to perform virtual care to patients in NWT. (David Kleinman, personal communication with NWT Health and Social Services Authority as SSRs are not on the CPSA general registrar).

2) Professional Liability Insurance (CMPA)

CPSA position: A regulated member providing virtual care across the Alberta border must ensure they have appropriate liability protection to provide care across jurisdictions.

CPSBC position: Registrants must ensure that they have appropriate liability protection for cross-border virtual care.

CPSS position: Such physicians will be required to meet the same requirements for CMPA membership or other insurance coverage as apply to other physicians licensed to practice in Saskatchewan.

NWT HSA position: Physicians should contact the CMPA to ensure their coverage extends to the NWT.

References:

<https://cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Virtual-Care.pdf>, last revised Jan 1, 2022

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Virtual-Care.pdf>, last revised May 6, 2022

https://www.cps.sk.ca/imis/CPSS/CPSS/PANDEMIC/COVID-19/Virtual_Care.aspx, last updated April 12, 2022

<https://www.nthssa.ca/en/alberta-doctors-nwt-covid-19-response>, website last accessed June 17, 2022

<https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/covid19/telehealth-and-virtual-care>, updated March 2, 2022