

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 680

5 By: Senator D. Wallace
6 By: Representative Gonzales
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE TELEMEDICINE ACT; TO ENSURE THAT
10 TELEMEDICINE IS THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE METHOD TO
11 DELIVER HEALTHCARE SERVICES REMOTELY; TO EXPAND THE
12 DEFINITION OF "PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP"; TO
13 INCREASE ACCESS TO TELEMEDICINE HEALTHCARE SERVICES;
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO AMEND THE TELEMEDICINE ACT; TO ENSURE
19 THAT TELEMEDICINE IS THE LEAST
20 RESTRICTIVE METHOD TO DELIVER HEALTHCARE
21 SERVICES REMOTELY; AND TO EXPAND THE
22 DEFINITION OF "PROFESSIONAL
23 RELATIONSHIP".
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-80-402(4), concerning the definition of
29 "professional relationship" in the Telemedicine Act, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 (4) "Professional relationship" means at minimum a relationship
32 established between a healthcare professional and a patient when:

33 (A) The healthcare professional has previously conducted
34 an in-person examination and is available to provide appropriate follow-up
35 care, when necessary, at medically necessary intervals;

36 (B) The healthcare professional personally knows the



1 patient and the patient’s relevant health status through an ongoing personal
2 or professional relationship and is available to provide appropriate follow-
3 up care, when necessary, at medically necessary intervals;

4 (C) The treatment is provided by a healthcare professional
5 in consultation with, or upon referral by, another healthcare professional
6 who has an ongoing relationship with the patient and who has agreed to
7 supervise the patient’s treatment, including follow-up care;

8 (D) An on-call or cross-coverage arrangement exists with
9 the patient’s regular treating healthcare professional or another healthcare
10 professional who has established a professional relationship with the
11 patient;

12 (E) A relationship exists in other circumstances as
13 defined by rule of the Arkansas State Medical Board for healthcare
14 professionals under its jurisdiction and their patients, including a
15 relationship established with store-and-forward technology in conjunction
16 with audio interaction and review of clinical information; or

17 (F) A relationship exists in other circumstances as
18 defined by rule of a licensing or certification board for other healthcare
19 professionals under the jurisdiction of the appropriate board and their
20 patients if the rules are no less restrictive than the rules of the Arkansas
21 State Medical Board;

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