

Additional Reference Materials:

- Correspondence from Council Members in response to Additional Materials from October 3 Council meeting
- Department of Health recommended changes to standard of care section of the report

King, Pamela

From: Monica Stynchula <ceo@reunioncare.com>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 11:51 AM
To: Kim Landry
Cc: King, Pamela; Amanda-Dr. Terkonda; Bill Manzie; Clary, Shannon; Darren Hay; Dr. Bertha; Dr. Burdick; Dr. Philip; Dr. Selznick; Dr. Terkonda; Leslee Gross; Liz Miller; Matthew Stanton; Mike Smith; Monica Stynchula; Helvey, Nikole; Sarah-Dr. Philip; Senior, Justin
Subject: Re: Oct 3 meeting follow up

1. I am attaching two (2) letters and an email for your perusal. They were sent as testimony to the Council during the meeting yesterday.

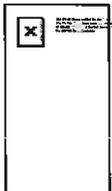
I also agree that payment parity is important. We expect the same level of effort, skill and time as an office visit. We should pay the same as well.

Regards,
Monica

Monica Stynchula
CEO & Founder
813-389-9708

<http://creditforcaringact.com/>

down load our free mobile app



Certified Female Owned Business
REUNIONCare, Inc.

The Innovation Lab @Poynter | 801 Third Street South #240 | St. Petersburg, FL 33701 |
8133899708

Sign up for a free [REUNIONCare account](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

Department of Health Recommended Edits

TELEHEALTH STANDARDS OF CARE

It is imperative that Florida licensed practitioners understand and comply with established standards of care whether treating patients in person or through telehealth. The Florida Department of Health (Department), which is responsible for the licensure and regulation of the more than 800,000 health practitioners in the state, provided information to the Council clarifying that current law does not preclude Florida licensed practitioners from using telehealth within their authorized scope of practice and established standards of care. The Department is working to increase awareness and education among licensed health practitioners regarding ~~their ability to~~ the use of telehealth within their practice standards. The Department recognizes telehealth as a modality for providing health services and not a separate form of practice.

A number of stakeholders, primarily ancillary health care practitioners (i.e. Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, etc.), indicated a need for specific statutory authority to develop telehealth practice standards related to telehealth, similar to the authority given to Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine.¹ Other stakeholders deem the use of the general standard of care provisions in rule as sufficient for practitioner oversight.

The following language is now posted on all DOH board and council webpages. *The use of telehealth technology by Florida licensed healthcare practitioners for the purpose of providing patient care within the state of Florida is not precluded by Florida law. Telehealth technologies may be employed for patient care as long as such technologies are used in a manner that is consistent with the standard of care.* The Florida legislature has granted regulatory boards and councils broad rule making authority. If individual boards determine a need for rules related to standards of care for providing services via telehealth, each board can pursue the issue on a case by case basis.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Council acknowledges Florida's current standards of care as sufficient for general regulatory oversight of patient care; and recognizes that each health care regulatory board, and the Department when there is no board, has direct authority for establishing appropriate standards based on knowledge and insight for their respective practitioners.

To ensure clarity for Florida licensed health care practitioners and stakeholders regarding the ability to use telehealth as a modality of care, the Council recommends:

Department of Health Recommended Edits

1. The Department of Health, health care regulatory boards and councils continue to educate and raise awareness among licensees about the use of telehealth modalities to treat patients when appropriate.
2. ~~The Florida legislature authorize health care regulatory boards and councils' specific statutory authority to develop standards of care and permit rules necessary for the implementation of telehealth. The telehealth standard of care shall be the same as the in-person standard of care.~~

The Council offers the following language for inclusion in Florida statutes:

~~The telehealth standard of care shall be the same as the in-person standard of care. The health care regulatory boards and councils' may establish standards of practice and permit rules necessary for implementation of telehealth.~~

ⁱ Board of Medicine Rule 64B8-9.0141 Standards for Telemedicine, Florida Administrative Code and Board of Osteopathic Medicine Rule 64B15-14.0081, Florida Administrative Code