

**VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING  
LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSES  
PERFORMING TELEHEALTH NURSING TO VERMONTERS FROM OUTSIDE VERMONT  
POSITION STATEMENT**

**Question:**

What is the requirement for Vermont nursing licensure when a nurse outside Vermont provides telehealth nursing to clients residing in Vermont?

**Definition:**

Telehealth nursing (also known as telenursing or nursing telepractice): the use of telehealth/telemedicine technology to deliver nursing care and conduct nursing practice. The technologies may include telecommunications and health technologies, such as audio, video, or data that are integrated into nursing practice to deliver nursing care remotely. Any nurse who has spoken with a patient over the phone has practiced telehealth nursing.

Provider-patient relationship: a relationship that includes the establishment of a documented diagnosis through the use of accepted medical practices and the maintenance of a current medical record.

**Background:**

Telehealth nursing is practiced globally in settings that include hospitals, healthcare clinics, healthcare provider/agency offices, schools, the home, prisons, nursing call centers, and mobile units. Nurses may access patient data remotely and communicate or interact with patients and caregivers via audio, video, and or written means (such as e-mail, fax, texting, or online chat). Telehealth nursing can be used for patient triage, assessment, education, counseling, and to observe or evaluate patient care.

The benefits of telenursing include providing care to patients at home, decreasing inpatient care, managing chronic illness, improving the efficiency of nursing care, reducing healthcare costs, and improving access to care.

**Position Statement Which Reflects Nurse's Roles and Responsibilities:**

Health care practice occurs where the recipient of health care services is located. Nurses located outside Vermont who provide telehealth nursing to clients in Vermont must have an active Vermont Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse, or Licensed Practical Nurse license, unless they are providing follow-up care. Follow-up care is provided when the nurse has personally established a provider-patient relationship or is authorized to act as the agent of a provider who has initially established a provider-patient relationship outside of Vermont. When providing the follow-up care, the nurse must have access to the diagnosis and current medical record.

Telephone triage or assessment is within the scope of the APRN and RN. LPN's may collect data and ask questions that are delineated in an algorithm or guideline to assist the APRN, RN, or physician in making an assessment of a client's condition.

**References/Citations:**

The Tri-Regulator Collaborative Position Statement on Practice Location for Consumer Protection. (2014). Accessed on 5/30/2018 at <https://www.ncsbn.org/3851.htm> .

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**This opinion is subject to change as changes in nursing practice occur.**