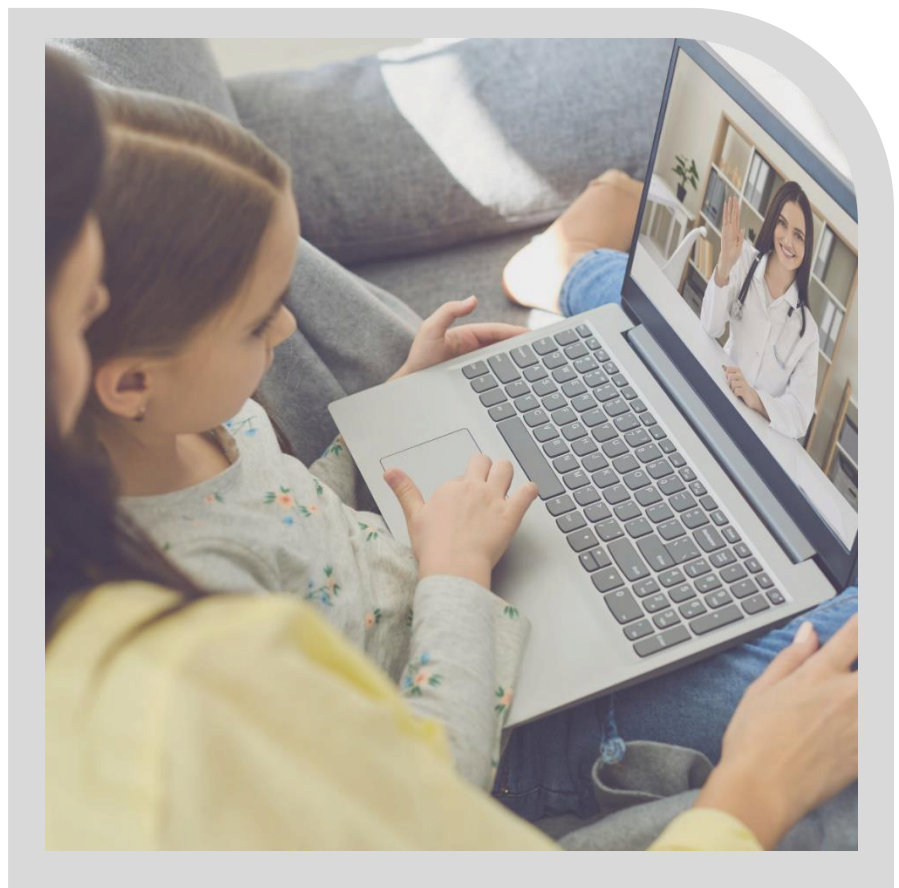


INFORMATION SHEET ON VIRTUAL MEDICINE ACROSS PROVINCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL BORDERS



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VIRTUAL MEDICINE ACROSS PROVINCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

Virtual Medicine refers to the provision of medical care by means of electronic communication (telephone, video, email, or text) where the patient and the member are at different locations, including but not limited to treating, advising, interviewing, or examining the patient.

This document is CPSM's interpretation of the legislation regarding virtual medicine across provincial and international borders. **CPSM considers the location of the patient determinative to where the practice of medicine occurs. CPSM regulates every person practicing medicine, whether virtual or in-person, on any patient located in Manitoba.**

This document is separate from the [Standard of Practice for Virtual Medicine](#) (effective November 1, 2021) which applies to all CPSM members engaging in virtual medicine.

Physicians Not Registered with CPSM and Seeking to Practice Virtual Medicine in Manitoba

Full (practicing) class registration in Manitoba is required for those physicians registered in another province or a jurisdiction outside of Canada who are seeking to practice virtual medicine for any patient located in Manitoba. This applies whether treating Manitoba patients for insured or non-insured services.

Currently, there is no separate virtual medicine registration in Manitoba for treating Manitoba patients.

CPSM Members Practicing Virtual Medicine in Another Province

When practicing virtual medicine to patients located in another province, Manitoba physicians must be aware of and comply with the licensing requirements in the Canadian jurisdiction in which the patient is located. As is the case with Manitoba, many Canadian provinces require physicians to hold a license and have liability insurance to treat a patient located in that jurisdiction.

CPSM registered physicians can practice medicine and treat patients virtually in Nunavut without obtaining a license to practice medicine in Nunavut. This is under an agreement made with the Government of Nunavut. There is an agreement between Ontario and Manitoba for Manitoba to provide acute medical care to NW Ontario residents including follow-up. In addition to acute care, CancerCare Manitoba offers

care to NW Ontario residents. The position of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario as set out in its website, based upon Ontario legislation, is the following:

Expectations for Non-CPSO Members when Providing Telemedicine in Ontario

The following expectation applies to physicians who are not CPSO members, but who are licensed to practice medicine in another jurisdiction and who provide care via telemedicine to patients located in Ontario.

7. Physicians who are not CPSO members **must** comply with licensing requirements in the jurisdiction in which they hold licensure and provide care in accordance with the standard of care.

Manitoba Health Tariff

CPSM is advised by Doctors Manitoba that the Manitoba Health [tariff for virtual care](#) may be claimed by physicians only when the patient is physically located in Manitoba. During the pandemic, this has been extended to patients located in Saskatchewan, NW Ontario, and Nunavut.

View [Doctors Manitoba Advice on Virtual Care Across Borders](#), which brings together licensing, insurance, and billing considerations. See their [Virtual Care Resource Centre](#), for guides, articles, and billing advice.

CPSM is advised that certain drugs may only be covered by Manitoba Health if prescribed by certain practitioners in Manitoba or elsewhere (for instance, some drugs can only be covered if prescribed by physicians affiliated with the MS Clinic or CancerCare).

CPSM Members Delivering Critical Test Results or Urgent Information

CPSM members must deliver critical test results or other urgent information to the patient regardless of the patient's location worldwide and may do so by virtual medicine.

CPSM Members Practicing Virtual Medicine in the USA or Another Country

CPSM physicians must not provide virtual medicine to patients located outside Canada (including your Manitoba patients travelling to the US or abroad – remember, you might have to be licensed and insured in that jurisdiction and this is neither an insured service nor included in the virtual care tariff).

The following are examples of practicing virtual medicine outside Canada that is not permitted as it is likely practicing medicine in that other jurisdiction:

- Manitoba patient is a truck driver and is located in any US state
- Manitoba patient is a snowbird
- Manitoba patient is just visiting family outside Canada
- Manitoba patient vacationing or working outside Canada

Physicians Not Registered with CPSM – Virtual Medicine Not Permitted

The following are examples of situations where care using virtual medicine is Not Permitted under Manitoba Legislation by physicians who are not registered in Manitoba and where the patient is located in Manitoba:

- Medical care provided under a commercial telemedicine business venture
- Medical care provided as part of an employee benefits plan
- Independent psychiatric examination
- Medical care provided for employees of a company while working in Manitoba, including an assessment of fitness to work
- Patient has moved to Manitoba but has not yet arranged for a Manitoba family physician
- Patient travels to another province and pays for a non-insured treatment and requires pre- and post-treatment medical care
- Patient is visiting Manitoba
- Pre-assessment and post-medical treatment for uninsured medical services at the Mayo Clinic or other such medical facility
- Pre-assessment and post-medical treatment for patients at a residential treatment facility for eating disorders or addictions (unless done in conjunction with CPSM registered physician)
- Any ongoing active practice that is to be conducted by solely virtual medicine without a regular physician presence in Manitoba

Physicians Not Registered with CPSM – Virtual Medicine is Permitted

Examples of virtual medicine permitted by Physicians Registered in Other Provinces to a patient located in Manitoba:

- A specialist consultant providing care to a Manitoba patient residing in Manitoba if the general care of that condition is managed and coordinated through a specialist physician in Manitoba. Examples of these are:
 - Pediatric cardiac surgeon in Edmonton's Stollery Children's Hospital providing pre- and post-medical care along with a pediatric cardiologist

- at the HSC Children's Hospital
 - Transplant surgeon in Toronto providing pre- and post-transplant medical care along with the transplant team at HSC
 - Oncologist in Montreal providing medical treatment through CancerCare Manitoba.
 - Physician providing continuity of care for a patient for whom Manitoba Health has approved out of province health care as an insured benefit and approves reimbursement of travel for such care
 - Dermatologist that treats all patients across provinces for a rare skin condition

- Providing medical care as part of the Canadian Armed Forces on bases
- Providing care to inmates in federal correctional facilities which are beyond provincial jurisdiction
- Other federal undertakings
- Providing very brief continuity of care when a patient moves from one province to Manitoba