

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

SENATE BILL 673

By: McCortney

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to telemedicine; amending 36 O.S. 2011, Section 6802, which relates to definitions; amending 43A O.S. 2011, Section 1-103, as last amended by Section 29, Chapter 475, O.S.L. 2019 (43A O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1-103), which relates to definitions; amending Section 1, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2017 (59 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 478), which relates to definitions; making certain definitions uniform; amending Section 2, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2017 (59 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 478.1), which relates to establishment of physician-patient relationship through telemedicine; deleting obsolete language; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2011, Section 6802, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6802. As used in ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Telemedicine Act, "telemedicine" means ~~the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, including but not limited to, the treatment and prevention of strokes, transfer of medical data, or exchange of medical education information by means of audio, video, or data communications. Telemedicine is not a consultation~~

1 ~~provided by telephone or facsimile machine~~ technology-enabled health
2 and care management and delivery systems that extend capacity and
3 access, which includes:

- 4 a. synchronous mechanisms, which may include live
5 audiovisual interaction between a patient and a health
6 care professional or real-time provider to provider
7 consultation through live interactive audiovisual
8 means,
- 9 b. asynchronous mechanisms, which include store and
10 forward transfers, online exchange of health
11 information between a patient and a health care
12 professional and online exchange of health information
13 between health care professionals, but shall not
14 include the use of automated text messages or
15 automated mobile applications that serve as the sole
16 interaction between a patient and a health care
17 professional,
- 18 c. remote patient monitoring,
- 19 d. mHealth, and
- 20 e. other electronic means that support clinical health
21 care, professional consultation, patient and
22 professional health-related education, public health
23 and health administration.

1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 43A O.S. 2011, Section 1-103, as
2 last amended by Section 29, Chapter 475, O.S.L. 2019 (43A O.S. Supp.
3 2020, Section 1-103), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 1-103. When used in this title, unless otherwise
5 expressly stated, or unless the context or subject matter otherwise
6 requires:

7 1. "Department" means the Department of Mental Health and
8 Substance Abuse Services;

9 2. "Chair" means the chair of the Board of Mental Health and
10 Substance Abuse Services;

11 3. "Mental illness" means a substantial disorder of thought,
12 mood, perception, psychological orientation or memory that
13 significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize
14 reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life;

15 4. "Board" means the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
16 Services as established by the Mental Health Law;

17 5. "Commissioner" means the individual selected and appointed
18 by the Board to serve as Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance
19 Abuse Services;

20 6. "Indigent person" means a person who has not sufficient
21 assets or resources to support the person and to support members of
22 the family of the person lawfully dependent on the person for
23 support;

1 7. "Facility" means any hospital, school, building, house or
2 retreat, authorized by law to have the care, treatment or custody of
3 an individual with mental illness, or drug or alcohol dependency,
4 gambling addiction, eating disorders, an opioid substitution
5 treatment program, including, but not limited to, public or private
6 hospitals, community mental health centers, clinics, satellites or
7 facilities; provided, that facility shall not mean a child guidance
8 center operated by the State Department of Health;

9 8. "Consumer" means a person under care or treatment in a
10 facility pursuant to the Mental Health Law, or in an outpatient
11 status;

12 9. "Care and treatment" means medical care and behavioral
13 health services, as well as food, clothing and maintenance,
14 furnished to a person;

15 10. Whenever in this law or in any other law, or in any rule or
16 order made or promulgated pursuant to this law or to any other law,
17 or in the printed forms prepared for the admission of consumers or
18 for statistical reports, the words "insane", "insanity", "lunacy",
19 "mentally sick", "mental disease" or "mental disorder" are used,
20 such terms shall have equal significance to the words "mental
21 illness";

22 11. "Licensed mental health professional" means:

- 23 a. a psychiatrist who is a diplomate of the American
24 Board of Psychiatry and Neurology,

- 1 b. a psychiatrist who is a diplomate of the American
2 Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry,
3 c. a physician licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma
4 Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and
5 Supervision Act or the Oklahoma Osteopathic Medicine
6 Act,
7 d. a clinical psychologist who is duly licensed to
8 practice by the State Board of Examiners of
9 Psychologists,
10 e. a professional counselor licensed pursuant to the
11 Licensed Professional Counselors Act,
12 f. a person licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant
13 to the provisions of the Social Worker's Licensing
14 Act,
15 g. a licensed marital and family therapist as defined in
16 the Marital and Family Therapist Licensure Act,
17 h. a licensed behavioral practitioner as defined in the
18 Licensed Behavioral Practitioner Act,
19 i. an advanced practice nurse as defined in the Oklahoma
20 Nursing Practice Act,
21 j. a physician's assistant who is licensed in good
22 standing in this state, or
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1 k. a licensed drug and alcohol counselor/mental health
2 (LADC/MH) as defined in the Licensed Alcohol and Drug
3 Counselors Act;

4 12. "Mentally incompetent person" means any person who has been
5 adjudicated mentally or legally incompetent by an appropriate
6 district court;

7 13. a. "Person requiring treatment" means a person who
8 because of his or her mental illness or drug or
9 alcohol dependency:

10 (1) poses a substantial risk of immediate physical
11 harm to self as manifested by evidence or serious
12 threats of or attempts at suicide or other
13 significant self-inflicted bodily harm,

14 (2) poses a substantial risk of immediate physical
15 harm to another person or persons as manifested
16 by evidence of violent behavior directed toward
17 another person or persons,

18 (3) has placed another person or persons in a
19 reasonable fear of violent behavior directed
20 towards such person or persons or serious
21 physical harm to them as manifested by serious
22 and immediate threats,

23 (4) is in a condition of severe deterioration such
24 that, without immediate intervention, there
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1 exists a substantial risk that severe impairment
2 or injury will result to the person, or
3 (5) poses a substantial risk of immediate serious
4 physical injury to self or death as manifested by
5 evidence that the person is unable to provide for
6 and is not providing for his or her basic
7 physical needs.

8 b. The mental health or substance abuse history of the
9 person may be used as part of the evidence to
10 determine whether the person is a person requiring
11 treatment or an assisted outpatient. The mental
12 health or substance abuse history of the person shall
13 not be the sole basis for this determination.

14 c. Unless a person also meets the criteria established in
15 subparagraph a or b of this paragraph, "person
16 requiring treatment" or an "assisted outpatient" shall
17 not mean:

18 (1) a person whose mental processes have been
19 weakened or impaired by reason of advanced years,
20 dementia, or Alzheimer's disease,

21 (2) a person with intellectual or developmental
22 disability as defined in Title 10 of the Oklahoma
23 Statutes,

24 (3) a person with seizure disorder,
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1 (4) a person with a traumatic brain injury, or

2 (5) a person who is homeless.

3 d. A person who meets the criteria established in this
4 section but who is medically unstable, or the facility
5 holding the person is unable to treat the additional
6 medical conditions of that person, should be
7 discharged and transported in accordance with Section
8 1-110 of this title;

9 14. "Petitioner" means a person who files a petition alleging
10 that an individual is a person requiring treatment or an assisted
11 outpatient;

12 15. "Executive director" means the person in charge of a
13 facility as defined in this section;

14 16. "Private hospital or facility" means any general hospital
15 maintaining a neuro-psychiatric unit or ward, or any private
16 hospital or facility for care and treatment of a person having a
17 mental illness, which is not supported by the state or federal
18 government. The term "private hospital" or "facility" shall not
19 include nursing homes or other facilities maintained primarily for
20 the care of elderly and disabled persons;

21 17. "Individualized treatment plan" means a proposal developed
22 during the stay of an individual in a facility, under the provisions
23 of this title, which is specifically tailored to the treatment needs
24 of the individual. Each plan shall clearly include the following:

- 1 a. a statement of treatment goals or objectives, based
2 upon and related to a clinical evaluation, which can
3 be reasonably achieved within a designated time
4 interval,
- 5 b. treatment methods and procedures to be used to obtain
6 these goals, which methods and procedures are related
7 to each of these goals and which include specific
8 prognosis for achieving each of these goals,
- 9 c. identification of the types of professional personnel
10 who will carry out the treatment procedures, including
11 appropriate medical or other professional involvement
12 by a physician or other health professional properly
13 qualified to fulfill legal requirements mandated under
14 state and federal law,
- 15 d. documentation of involvement by the individual
16 receiving treatment and, if applicable, the accordance
17 of the individual with the treatment plan, and
- 18 e. a statement attesting that the executive director of
19 the facility or clinical director has made a
20 reasonable effort to meet the plan's individualized
21 treatment goals in the least restrictive environment
22 possible closest to the home community of the
23 individual;
- 24

1 18. "Telemedicine" means ~~the practice of health care delivery,~~
2 ~~diagnosis, consultation, evaluation, treatment, transfer of medical~~
3 ~~data, or exchange of medical education information by means of~~
4 ~~audio, video, or data communications. Telemedicine uses audio and~~
5 ~~video multimedia telecommunication equipment which permits two-way~~
6 ~~real-time communication between a health care practitioner and a~~
7 ~~patient who are not in the same physical location. Telemedicine~~
8 ~~shall not include consultation provided by telephone or facsimile~~
9 machine technology-enabled health and care management and delivery
10 systems that extend capacity and access, which includes:

- 11 a. synchronous mechanisms, which may include live
12 audiovisual interaction between a patient and a health
13 care professional or real-time provider to provider
14 consultation through live interactive audiovisual
15 means,
- 16 b. asynchronous mechanisms, which include store and
17 forward transfers, online exchange of health
18 information between a patient and a health care
19 professional and online exchange of health information
20 between health care professionals, but shall not
21 include the use of automated text messages or
22 automated mobile applications that serve as the sole
23 interaction between a patient and a health care
24 professional,

- 1 c. remote patient monitoring,
- 2 d. mHealth, and
- 3 e. other electronic means that support clinical health
- 4 care, professional consultation, patient and
- 5 professional health-related education, public health
- 6 and health administration;

7 19. "Recovery and recovery support" means nonclinical services
8 that assist individuals and families to recover from alcohol or drug
9 problems. They include social support, linkage to and coordination
10 among allied service providers, including but not limited to
11 transportation to and from treatment or employment, employment
12 services and job training, case management and individual services
13 coordination, life skills education, relapse prevention, housing
14 assistance, child care, and substance abuse education;

15 20. "Assisted outpatient" means a person who:

- 16 a. is either currently under the care of a facility
- 17 certified by the Department of Mental Health and
- 18 Substance Abuse Services as a Community Mental Health
- 19 Center, or is being discharged from the custody of the
- 20 Oklahoma Department of Corrections, or is being
- 21 discharged from a residential placement by the Office
- 22 of Juvenile Affairs,
- 23 b. is suffering from a mental illness,

1 c. is unlikely to survive safely in the community without
2 supervision, based on a clinical determination,

3 d. has a history of lack of compliance with treatment for
4 mental illness that has:

5 (1) prior to the filing of a petition, at least twice
6 within the last thirty-six (36) months been a
7 significant factor in necessitating
8 hospitalization or treatment in a hospital or
9 residential facility, including admission to a
10 community-based structured crisis center as
11 certified by the Oklahoma Department of Mental
12 Health and Substance Abuse Services, or receipt
13 of services in a forensic or other mental health
14 unit of a correctional facility, or a specialized
15 treatment plan for treatment of mental illness in
16 a secure juvenile facility or placement in a
17 specialized residential program for juveniles, or

18 (2) prior to the filing of the petition, resulted in
19 one or more acts of serious violent behavior
20 toward self or others or threats of, or attempts
21 at, serious physical harm to self or others
22 within the last twenty-four (24) months,

23 e. is, as a result of his or her mental illness, unlikely
24 to voluntarily participate in outpatient treatment

1 that would enable him or her to live safely in the
2 community,

- 3 f. in view of his or her treatment history and current
4 behavior, is in need of assisted outpatient treatment
5 in order to prevent a relapse or deterioration which
6 would be likely to result in serious harm to the
7 person or persons as defined in this section, and
8 g. is likely to benefit from assisted outpatient
9 treatment; and

10 21. "Assisted outpatient treatment" means outpatient services
11 which have been ordered by the court pursuant to a treatment plan
12 approved by the court to treat an assisted outpatient's mental
13 illness and to assist the person in living and functioning in the
14 community, or to attempt to prevent a relapse or deterioration that
15 may reasonably be predicted to result in suicide or the need for
16 hospitalization.

17 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 228, O.S.L.
18 2017 (59 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 478), is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 Section 478. ~~A. As used in this act:~~

21 ~~1. "Store and forward technologies" means the transmission of a~~
22 ~~patient's medical information from an originating site to the~~
23 ~~physician or practitioner at the distant site; provided, photographs~~
24 ~~visualized by a telecommunications system shall be specific to the~~

1 ~~patient's medical condition and adequate for furnishing or~~
2 ~~confirming a diagnosis or treatment plan;~~

3 ~~2. "Telemedicine" means the practice of health care delivery,~~
4 ~~diagnosis, consultation, evaluation and treatment, transfer of~~
5 ~~medical data or exchange of medical education information by means~~
6 ~~of a two-way, real-time interactive communication, not to exclude~~
7 ~~store and forward technologies, between a patient and a physician~~
8 ~~with access to and reviewing the patient's relevant clinical~~
9 ~~information prior to the telemedicine visit.~~

10 ~~"Telemedicine" and "store and forward technologies" shall not~~
11 ~~include consultations provided by telephone audio-only~~
12 ~~communication, electronic mail, text message, instant messaging~~
13 ~~conversation, website questionnaire, nonsecure video conference or~~
14 ~~faesimile machine~~ Section 478.1 of this title, "telemedicine" means
15 technology-enabled health and care management and delivery systems
16 that extend capacity and access, which includes:

- 17 a. synchronous mechanisms, which may include live
18 audiovisual interaction between a patient and a health
19 care professional or real-time provider to provider
20 consultation through live interactive audiovisual
21 means,
- 22 b. asynchronous mechanisms, which include store and
23 forward transfers, online exchange of health
24 information between a patient and a health care

1 professional and online exchange of health information
2 between health care professionals, but shall not
3 include the use of automated text messages or
4 automated mobile applications that serve as the sole
5 interaction between a patient and a health care
6 professional,

7 c. remote patient monitoring,

8 d. mHealth, and

9 e. other electronic means that support clinical health
10 care, professional consultation, patient and
11 professional health-related education, public health
12 and health administration.

13 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 228, O.S.L.
14 2017 (59 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 478.1), is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 Section 478.1. A. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a valid
17 physician-patient relationship may be established by an allopathic
18 or osteopathic physician with a patient located in this state
19 through telemedicine, provided that the physician:

20 1. Holds a license to practice medicine in this state;

21 2. Confirms with the patient the patient's identity and
22 physical location; and

23 3. Provides the patient with the treating physician's identity
24 and professional credentials.

1 B. Telemedicine ~~and store and forward technology~~ encounters
2 shall comply with the Health Insurance Portability and
3 Accountability Act of 1996 and ensure that all patient
4 communications and records are secure and confidential.

5 C. Telemedicine encounters ~~and encounters involving store and~~
6 ~~forward technologies~~ in this state shall not be used to establish a
7 valid physician-patient relationship for the purpose of prescribing
8 opiates, synthetic opiates, semisynthetic opiates, benzodiazepine or
9 carisprodol, but may be used to prescribe opioid antagonists or
10 partial agonists pursuant to Sections 1-2506.1 and 1-2506.2 of Title
11 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

12 D. A physician-patient relationship shall not be created solely
13 based on the receipt of patient health information by a physician.
14 The duties and obligations created by a physician-patient
15 relationship shall not apply until the physician affirmatively:

- 16 1. Undertakes to diagnose and treat the patient; or
- 17 2. Participates in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient.

18 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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