

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Medical Examining Board

Rule No.:	Med 23
Relating to:	Telemedicine
Rule Type:	Permanent

1. Finding/nature of emergency (Emergency Rule only):

N/A

2. Detailed description of the objective of the proposed rule:

The objective of the proposed rule is to provide greater clarity for physicians with regards to the practice of telemedicine in Wisconsin.

3. Description of the existing policies relevant to the rule, new policies proposed to be included in the rule, and an analysis of policy alternatives:

The current administrative code is silent with regards to telemedicine practice. The proposed rule will define telemedicine, explain how a valid physician-patient relationship can be established in a telemedicine setting, and identify technology requirements for physicians who use electronic communications, information technology or other means of interaction with patients who are not physically present. The proposed rule will specify out-of-state physicians to hold a valid Wisconsin medical license in order to diagnose and treat patients located in Wisconsin.

4. Detailed explanation of statutory authority for the rule (including the statutory citation and language):

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats., provides examining boards, “shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains. . .”

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., sets forth the parameters of an agency’s rule-making authority, stating an agency, “may promulgate rules interpreting provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency. . .but a rule is not valid if the rule exceeds the bounds of correct interpretation.”

Section 448.40 (1), Stats., provides that the Medical Examining Board “may promulgate rules to carry out the purposes of this subchapter, including rules requiring the completion of continuing education, professional development, and maintenance of certification or performance improvement or continuing medical education programs for renewal of a license to practice medicine and surgery.”

5. Estimate of amount of time that state employees will spend developing the rule and of other resources necessary to develop the rule:

160 hours

6. List with description of all entities that may be affected by the proposed rule:

Wisconsin licensed and out-of-state physicians

7. Summary and preliminary comparison with any existing or proposed federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by the proposed rule:

2015 HR 691 - Telehealth Modernization Act of 2015 – the proposed bill seeks to establish a federal standard for telehealth and serve as guidance for states, subject to a number of specified conditions.

8. Anticipated economic impact of implementing the rule (note if the rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses):

The proposed rule will have minimal to no economic impact on small businesses and the state’s economy as a whole.

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