

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT – TELEPSYCHIATRY

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1. A physician is deemed to be practicing medicine in the state in which the *patient* is physically located at the time of treatment and thus he or she must meet the licensure requirements of that state. Currently each state has its own rules and whether a license is required to treat a patient via telepsychiatry may vary depending on several factors including: type and frequency of the encounter, duration of treatment, whether another local psychiatrist is also involved in care, etc.
2. It is important to remember that the standard of care for treatment via telepsychiatry is *exactly* the same as it would be were the patient seen in a face-to-face encounter. When practicing any form of telemedicine, one must consider not only meeting the standard of care from a *clinical* perspective but also meeting the standards required for the practice of *telemedicine*.
3. Many states have very specific regulations for telemedicine practices that must be complied with. In addition to licensure requirements, psychiatrists must be aware of other rules and regulations their state (and that of the patient) may have regarding telemedicine practice as they will be required to comply with both sets of rules.

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