




Information Bulletin 03-2024

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Deputy Secretary
Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

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Effective date: Immediately

Purpose: To provide an update on the extension of Telemedicine Flexibilities issued by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (Department) issued [Licensing Alert 02-20](#) in March 2020 suspending the regulation at 28 Pa. Code § 715.9(a)(4) and allowing an initial evaluation for a person who will be treated by the OTP with buprenorphine to be completed via telehealth during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The alert also allowed the OTP to treat an existing service recipient of the OTP with buprenorphine or methadone via telehealth.

Under Act 30 of 2022, the Department’s regulatory suspensions that are “related to federal exemptions granted under the federal public health emergency declaration” were extended until “the last day federal exemptions granted under the federal public health emergency declaration are authorized.” In other words, Act 30 aligned the timing for the Department’s regulatory suspensions with the deadline for flexibilities granted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the DEA – not with the deadline of the public health emergency itself.

The DEA, jointly with HHS, has extended the temporary COVID-19 telemedicine flexibilities through December 31, 2025. See [DEA and HHS Extend Telemedicine Flexibilities through 2025](#). Therefore, the Department’s suspension of 28 Pa. Code § 715.9(a)(4) under the conditions set forth in Licensing Alert 02-20 remains in effect as well.

The Pennsylvania Department of State has issued a Frequently Asked Questions resource, [Telemedicine FAQs | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#), that may answer many questions.

Please be advised to check the individual license requirements, funding requirements, and other state licensing board criteria when making changes to current practice policy and procedures.

Please email questions about this Information Bulletin to RA-licensuredivision@pa.gov.