



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, by Proclamation dated March 14, 2020, issued by Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, a state of emergency was declared pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-11, in order to address the high risk for an outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Proclamation has invoked the emergency powers of the Governor pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-11 (c)(1) to temporarily suspend or modify any state statute, rule, regulation or order which would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy, as an agency of the State of Mississippi, wishes to comply with the Governor's proclamation and take those steps necessary to address access to needed health care to people in the State of Mississippi during this time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that in order to receive health care, many patients are required to travel long distances both in-state and out-of-state to see their healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, Part 3103, Chapter 3, Rule 3.2(1)(f), Telehealth, provides that the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant using telehealth must obtain written, informed consent from the patient or other person with authority to make health care treatment decision for the patient before telehealth services are provided; and

WHEREAS, Part 3103, Chapter 3, Rule 3.2 (6) (a), also provides that a tele-physical therapy practitioner must have an active Mississippi license in good standing to practice telehealth in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Part 3103, Chapter 7, Rule 7.1 (8) (c) provides that a physical therapist assistant licensed in another jurisdiction who is authorized to provide physical therapy in Mississippi during a lawfully declared disaster or emergency must practice only under the supervision of a Mississippi licensed physical therapist; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that enforcement of Rule 3.2 and Rule 7.1 herein may result in unnecessary patient travel which may increase possible risks to patients during the state of emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, until action is taken by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to lift the declared emergency, the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy hereby authorizes the tele-physical therapy practitioner to obtain oral informed consent from the patient or other appropriate person with authority to make health care treatment decisions for the patient before services are rendered through telehealth provided the tele-physical therapy practitioner has made, and documented in the patient's record, all reasonable efforts to obtain written or video consent for telehealth services.

FURTHER, until action is taken by the Governor to lift the state of emergency, out-of-state physical therapists or physical therapist assistants may utilize telehealth when treating patients in Mississippi without the necessity of securing a license to practice in this State, provided the out-of-state physical therapist or physical therapist assistant holds an unrestricted license to practice in the state in which the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant practices and currently is not the subject of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding and so advises the Board in writing.

FURTHER, until action is taken by the Governor to lift the state of emergency, out-of-state physical therapist assistants may practice telehealth under the supervision of a physical therapist who is licensed in the same state in which the physical therapist assistant practices and who currently is not the subject of any investigation or disciplinary proceeding and so advises the Board in writing.

FURTHER, every physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who is currently not licensed in the State of Mississippi and who wishes to practice in this State shall complete the disastrous/emergency waiver found on the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy website.

FURTHER, except as specifically stated herein, all other rules and regulations remain in full force and effect.

SO ORDERED AND APPROVED by the Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy this, the 20th day of March 2020.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

By: Stephanie Boyette
Stephanie Boyette
Executive Director