



Promoting wellness and recovery

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To:

From: Denise Cole
Office of Licensure & Certification
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Date: April 8, 2020

Subject: Waiver of Private Psychiatric Hospital Licensing Requirements

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is issuing the waiver listed below. The waiver will expire upon the rescinding of the Governor's Executive Order declaring a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Telehealth use for patient evaluation and management is allowed in an inpatient psychiatric setting to the extent that that it supports a similar quality of patient care that is provided through the delivery of in-person psychiatric services. This would be accomplished by liaison with on-site clinical staff who are able to provide (through use of appropriate credentials and privileges) additional clinical information and patient support services. Consideration should be given as to the need for in-person evaluation by a psychiatrist or other qualified healthcare practitioner in the initial patient visit, following any major adverse event (suicidal behavior, episode of seclusion/restraint, significant adverse drug reaction, for example) and at the time of hospital discharge. The hospital medical director will review the use of telehealth for these purposes, identify any patient care instances that are not adequately addressed by telehealth services, and return to in-person psychiatric services for the identified situations, as warranted.