

Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners
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Oklahoma Board of Osteopathic Examiners Enforcement Standards

Physician/Patient Relationship

4/15/2024

General Standards

"**Physician/patient relationship**" is formed when a physician either directly or indirectly interacts with a patient to diagnose, treat, or recommend treatment for any condition or illness the patient presents, regardless of whether it is recognized as a disease by the medical community. This relationship must start with a face-to-face meeting that is medically appropriate and includes taking the patient's history, performing a physical examination, and creating a plan. The relationship also requires medically indicated follow-up care when appropriate.

Telemedicine/Online Prescriptions

The requirements for establishing a physician/patient relationship remain the same even when using telemedicine. Initially, this relationship must include a scheduled **face-to-face encounter** that is both medically appropriate and documented. This encounter shall include a history, physical examination, and plan. A specific telehealth physical examination tool is not mandated by the Board.

To further explore the requirement to conduct a telemedicine physical examination it is recommended that the physician refer to *Telehealth.HHS.gov* web site found at <https://telehealth.hhs.gov/providers/preparing-patients-for-telehealth/telehealth-physical-exam> or a tool like that outlined in *The Telehealth Ten: A Guide for a Patient-Assisted Virtual Physical Examination*, Am J Med. 2021 Jan; 134(1): 48–51. The initial encounter with the provider in the physician/patient relationship must occur **BEFORE** care is provided.