

Policy Number:	OSBOE-P010
Adopted by Board:	September 18, 2025
To be Reviewed:	2028

Purpose:

This policy defines the framework and components for establishing a physician-patient relationship.

Relevant Citations:

59 O.S. § 637 A2 d.

A. The State Board of Osteopathic Examiners may refuse to admit a person to an examination or may refuse to issue or reinstate or may suspend or revoke any license issued or reinstated by the Board upon proof that the applicant or holder of such a license...2. Has engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, false promise, false pretense, unethical conduct or unprofessional conduct, as may be determined by the Board, in the performance of the functions or duties of an osteopathic physician, including but not limited to the following:

d. delegating professional responsibilities to a person who is not qualified by training, skill, competency, age, experience or licensure to perform them, noting that **delegation may only occur within an appropriate doctor-patient relationship, wherein a proper patient record is maintained including, but not limited to, at the minimum, a current history and physical,**

Procedure:

A 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.

For 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.