

TELEHEALTH IN THE NORTHEAST

FIELD REPORT: SAMPLE STAKEHOLDER CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, & LESSONS LEARNED

NORTHEAST TELEHEALTH RESOURCE CENTER (GRANT GA5RH37459)

MONTHLY REPORT: DECEMBER, 2021

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT DANIELLE LOUDER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR (DLOUDER@MCD.ORG)

VERMONT FACILITATES NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE LICENSURE WORKING GROUP

Over 60 leaders from across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine began meeting in the summer of 2021 to form an Interstate Telehealth Working Group (ITWG). Led by the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation, the goal of the group was to evaluate recommendations for the Vermont Legislature about how to license out of state providers and help to facilitate interstate telehealth practice. The group developed a report on the findings for the Vermont State Legislature, directed to the House Committee on Health Care, the House Committee on Government Operations, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

The ITWG group was comprised of members from across the health care spectrum, including providers, professors, state regulators, and other stakeholders, including the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center. The diverse group was tasked with understanding how legislative measures could affect patient care and continuity of care, including access to care, quality of care, patient safety, and other impacts.

The Working Group was directed to consider the following telehealth licensing policy methods:

- 1) Telehealth licenses
- 2) Waiver of licensure
- 3) National licensure compacts
- 4) Regional reciprocity agreement

The ITWG members divided these topics as “subgroups” to discuss each of these “modalities”. A fourth subgroup was also created to explore international telehealth licensing laws. The NETRC Team actively attended and supported all subgroups and co-facilitated the international group. The NETRC team provided supporting literature, topical investigations, and facilitated connections to subject matter experts. The NETRC team also attended all bi-weekly and monthly Working Group meetings from June 2021-December 2021.

The final report developed by the ITWG includes both short-term and long-term recommendations. The report states:

“The Working Group recommends that, in the short-term, the General Assembly require out-of-state providers to obtain a temporary registration if they wish to continue to provide telehealth services in Vermont after the waiver authorized by Act 6 expires on March 31, 2022. The Working Group further recommends that, effective July 1, 2023 and thereafter, the General Assembly require an out-of-state provider to obtain a registration, telehealth license, full or compact license in order to provide telehealth services in Vermont. The type of license obtained after July

1, 2023 (registration, telehealth license, or full or compact license) depends on the extent (i.e., length of practice and number of patients or clients) of an out-of-state provider’s telehealth practice in Vermont”.

The following table outlines the short-term recommendations identified by the Working Group, which are suggested to apply April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

Recommendation Table One Temporary Registration Requirements	
Effective Dates	April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 Registration requirement includes out-of-state providers offering telehealth services in Vermont without a Vermont license prior to March 31, 2022 and those who begin offering telehealth services under a temporary registration in Vermont between March 31, 2022 and before July 1, 2023.
Information	Out-of-state providers must submit the following to OPR or the BMP: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name 2. Contact information 3. Verification of licensure in good standing in that profession¹¹ from other state(s) of licensure¹²
Fee	To be determined based on resources required to implement and oversee. ¹³
Term Length and Patient/Client Limit	No patient or client limits. No limit on the length of the term of practice but the registration expires on June 30, 2023.
Vermont Laws	Registered providers are subject to the Vermont <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In-state, in-person standard of care 2. Scope of practice requirements for the profession 3. Legal jurisdiction 4. Supervision and collaboration requirements and 5. Prescribing requirements.

The Vermont State Legislature received this report on December 15, 2021, and will be discussing the recommendations as a part of [H.655](#) “An Act Relating to Establishing a Telehealth Licensure and Registration System”.

For a more in-depth look into the findings of the ITWG and the recommendations put forth, you can read the final report here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Facilitation-of-Interstate-Practice-Using-Telehealth-Working-Group-Final-Report-AK.pdf>