



**Re: Guidance on Use of Electronic Means to Provide Patient Care by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses during COVID-19 Pandemic**

To Whom It May Concern:

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's declaration of a state of emergency on March 11, 2020, issued pursuant to Executive Order 2020-004, the New Mexico Board of Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") has received inquiries from interested parties as to whether advanced practice registered nurses may use electronic means to provide patient care. Although the Board cannot provide legal advice to the public or licensees, in my capacity as Executive Director of the Board, I am issuing this guidance due to these extraordinary circumstances.

Addressing the current COVID-19 pandemic and treating those who fall ill may very well require the use of novel and expanded methods of delivering care. To that end, the Board's rules do not address the use of electronic means by advanced practice registered nurses to provide patient care. Therefore, to the extent that ambiguity may exist on the part of licensees or the public at large as to this issue, I would simply clarify that New Mexico-licensed advanced practice registered nurses are not prohibited by the Board's rules from providing care through electronic means (whether internet, email, telephone, or otherwise). However, please be clear that all care *must* be provided professionally, competently, and safely. All advanced practice registered nurses must conform their practice to this obligation as well as fully comply with the Nursing Practice Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 61-3-1 to -30 (1968, as amended through 2018), and the Board's rules, including the Management of Chronic Pain with Controlled Substances rule, 16.12.9 NMAC.

Following the leadership and direction of Governor Lujan Grisham, the New Mexico Board of Nursing will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and do everything within its power and statutory authority to assist the State, the public, and licensees. Therefore, this guidance will remain in place at least until the end of this state of emergency or until modified by the Board. In addition, the Board may issue further guidance to licensees as may be appropriate.

Sincerely,

Sasha N. Poole, PhD, RN  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Board of Nursing