



Dear Licensee:

The following are important news items of which you should be aware during this emergency:

1. The DEA has issued temporary emergency [guidelines](#) for prescribing controlled substances for patients for whom you have not conducted an in-person evaluation. The guidelines are strict, requiring that:

- (1) The prescription is issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a practitioner acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice;
- (2) The telemedicine communication is conducted using an audio-visual, real-time, two-way interactive communication system; and
- (3) The practitioner is acting in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

The guidance also covers allowable methods for issuing such a prescription to a pharmacy. Be sure you read the DEA guidelines carefully before proceeding.

2. Alabama Medicaid has issued temporary emergency [guidelines](#) for requesting Medicaid reimbursement for performing certain consultations and visits via telecommunications. Again, read those guidelines carefully before proceeding.

In every case, whether regarding controlled substances or Medicaid patients, you personally must consult with the patient, you must document it in the patient's chart, and the standard of care must be the same standard of care observed during in-person visits to the clinic.

3. The federal Department of Health and Human Services is [relaxing](#) certain HIPAA requirements, also to promote telehealth.

4. American Dental Association has posted an on-demand [webinar](#) on infection control. See also CDC's most updated [guidance](#) on infection control for practitioners.

5. The Dental Board office has received numerous inquiries about CE requirements --specifically, the requirement that half of your annual CE be earned in person.

Under these unprecedented circumstances, the Board will exercise its prosecutorial discretion to allow you to earn more than half of your CE online if this will help you meet your annual requirement.

6. Attorney General Steve Marshall has [stated](#) that law enforcement can police violations of last week's order mandating that elective procedures shall not be performed until further notice. For specific guidance regarding which procedures are regarded as elective versus emergency, see the [Alabama Department of Public Health](#) and [American Dental Association](#).

Sincerely,
Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama
