

Nevada PPC- comment

Kim McFarlane

Fri 8/16/2024 10:21 AM

WARNING - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

August 16, 2024

Dear Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

I am a Physician Assistant (PA) currently licensed in Utah and Idaho. Previously during CoVid and under the Emergency Proclamation I and the other PA's in our group were able to practice virtually in Nevada. This opportunity was eliminated when the Emergency Proclamation ended. I also have a family interest in Nevada health care as my daughter and her family live in rural Nevada and their care is provided by a PA in a rural health clinic.

I work for a virtual practice, Connect Care with Intermountain Health. We are a 24/7 practice that employs about 30 providers who are Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners. There are also additional providers that provide Virtual Primary Care in Nevada.

Our Nurse Practitioners can currently provide care to patients in Nevada via telemedicine.

Our Physician Assistants cannot provide care to patients in Nevada under current regulations restricting PA practice in Nevada. Restrictions that no longer exist in most of the surrounding states. Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Wyoming, Oregon and Montana are all near states that have less restrictive practice environments for PA's than does Nevada. This less restrictive legislation allows employers much greater flexibility when employing PA's in those states. My group alone saves approximately \$100,000 per year that was previously paid as physician supervisory fees. This money can be reinvested in providers who provide direct patient care, providing more access and helping to minimize overall health care costs. Prior to Utah's legislation we had practices that had to close due to death or retirement of the supervising physician, leaving PA's unable to provide care to patients in those practices. A recent example was a physician who died from CoVid leaving his PA unable to provide care, resulting in their panel of about 5,000 patients being forced to find a new provider in rural community with already strained resources. I am sure Nevada has similar rural practices that would have to close if they lost their physician, resulting in total loss of access in those rural areas.

Utah has had PA's being brought before the PA board for disciplinary issues since passage of Utah's bill allowing increased PA autonomy.

I would encourage Nevada to adopt similar legislation to allow increased patient access to the healthcare by Physician Assistants and enable PA's to provide to patients in Nevada. I would also encourage you to specifically include Physician Assistants in BDR topic #2 Medicaid reimbursement regulations. I would also encourage Nevada to support PA Interstate Licensure Compact as discussed in BDR Topic #3.

Sincerely,

Kim T. McFarlane, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA

Physician Assistant
Medical Group Credentialing Committee Member
TeleHealth Services- Connect Care

Intermountain Health, Canyons
5373 S. Green Street #400, Murray, UT, 84123
P: 801.442.4457 | C: 801.652.5735

Kim.McFarlane@imail.org



Connect Care is Intermountain's direct-to-consumer telemedicine service. Learn more at:

<https://intermountainhealthcare.org/c/connect-care>

NOTICE: This e-mail is for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are prohibited from reviewing, using, disclosing or distributing this e-mail or its contents. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of this e-mail and its contents.