

Bottom line: Telemedicine

What's the bottom line regarding telemedicine in Pennsylvania? While telemedicine is currently being used, there is no law to support or define its utilization. Senate Bill (SB) 780 defines telemedicine and the process by which medical diagnosis, consultation, and treatment are provided through live, interactive video and audio technology that connects physicians and their patients in different locations.

PAMED strongly believes that passage of SB 780 will help *improve access to care* across the state. For more information, visit www.pamedsoc.org/Advocate.

Reasons to Support

- SB 780 can bring health care to the most vulnerable populations like those who reside in remote areas of the commonwealth, urban communities that lack reliable or affordable transportation, and for patients with significant mobility challenges that present a barrier to in-person consultations with physicians.
- Among other important safeguards, this legislation prohibits “audio only” telemedicine services (video must be available if either the patient or provider requests it).
- Mandates that telemedicine services be reimbursed by health insurers.
- Requires physicians performing telemedicine to a Pennsylvania resident hold a Pennsylvania medical practice license.



Geography, weather, availability of specialists, transportation, and other factors are barriers to accessing appropriate health care. These barriers can be broken down through the appropriate use of technology to allow consumers the access they need to qualified providers.