



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2550
Fax: 907.465.2974

Statement regarding an alternative definition for “life threatening condition”

The Alaska State Medical Board adopted an alternative definition for “life threatening condition” during the May 19, 2023, Quarterly Board Meeting.

According to AS 08.01.085(b), to qualify for telemedicine encounters with a physician not licensed in Alaska, an Alaska patient must have a pre-existing relationship with the physician practicing by telemedicine or the patient must be experiencing a life-threatening condition. AS 08.01.085 (j) (3), defines “life threatening” to mean “any disease or condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted.”

The Alaska State Medical Board recognizes an alternative definition for “life-threatening” to also include conditions for which the patient’s primary care provider has evaluated and determined a need for a medical specialist to evaluate and treat the patient, and there are no such qualified medical specialists available to the patient, within a reasonable amount of travel time, who are practicing in the patient’s geographic location in Alaska.