In order to provide care for a patient in the State of Alaska (including reading and interpreting films, samples, or images, or otherwise diagnosing, treating, or rendering an opinion), a physician must hold a current, active license issued by the Alaska State Medical Board. This requirement also applies to second opinions if the physician is charging a fee for providing the opinion. The only exception is for a “curbside” opinion given as a courtesy to a colleague (a licensed physician) for which there is no charge.

A **physician** may render a diagnosis, provide treatment, or prescribe, dispense, or administer a prescription drug, without first conducting a physical exam, however:

- the treating physician must be licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board;
- the treating physician, another licensed health care provider, or a physician in the treating physician’s group practice, must be available to provide follow-up care;
- the treating physician must request that the patient consent to sending a copy of the records to the patient’s primary care provider (if the treating physician is not the primary care provider);
- a physically separated physician may prescribe, dispense, or administer a controlled drug only if an appropriate licensed health care provider is physically present with the patient;
- the treating physician must practice in accordance with all relevant laws and practice standards, including compliance with
  - the American Medical Association (AMA) guiding principles for telemedicine practice, published in the *AMA Council on Medical Service Reports, Coverage of and Payment for Telemedicine* (adopted June 2014); and
  - the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) *Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine* (adopted April 2014);
- the physician may not prescribe, dispense, or administer
  - a prescription drug in response to an Internet questionnaire or electronic mail message to a person with whom the physician does not have a prior physician-patient relationship; or
  - an abortion-inducing drug, unless the physician complies with Alaska Statute (AS) 18.16.010

A **physician assistant** may (subject to their collaborative plan) prescribe, dispense, or furnish a prescription medication to a person without first conducting a physical examination, only if there
is an established patient-physician assistant relationship based on an in-person physical exam; except
- for use in emergency treatment
- for expedited partner therapy for sexually transmitted diseases; or
- in response to an infectious disease investigation, public health emergency, infectious disease outbreak, or act of bioterrorism.

**Alaska Telemedicine Business Registry:** Before providing telemedicine services to a patient located in the State of Alaska, a business providing telemedicine services must register on the telemedicine business registry.