



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Juneau Office

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

April 4, 2022

The Honorable David Wilson, Chair
Alaska Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Follow-up information for SB 175 – Health Care Services by Telehealth

Dear Senator Wilson:

During the SB 175 hearing in Senate Health and Social Services Committee hearing on March 31st, you requested a statement regarding how telehealth providers utilize the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

The Controlled Substance Act (AS 17.30.200) requires all Alaska-licensed providers with a DEA registration number to review a patient prior to prescribing a federally scheduled II – III controlled substance (AS 17.30.200(k)(4)). The method of service delivery—whether in-person or via telehealth—does not change the review or reporting requirements of the PDMP.

Pharmacies that mail controlled substances to Alaska are required to be registered with the Alaska Board of Pharmacy as an out of state pharmacy. A controlled substance prescribed to the patient could be filled at an internet pharmacy, regardless of whether the visit occurred in person or via telehealth. The risk of obtaining medication through the mail from an internet pharmacy is the same as a prescription that results from an in-person visit with an Alaska-licensed prescriber.

All prescription drugs distributed or dispensed to Alaskans are required by AS 17.30.200(b) to be reported daily to the PDMP.

Please let me know if you would like additional information or if the committee has any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Chambers".

Sara Chambers
Division Director

cc: Melissa Kookesh, Legislative Liaison
Lisa Sherrell, PDMP Coordinator