

# L-12 Virtual Medicine Policy

Section	Date Issued	Revision Date(s)	Date of Last Review
License	September 2021		September 2021

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

MARRT has the legislated obligation to protect the citizens of Manitoba by ensuring the safe delivery and reception of respiratory care through virtual medicine. As such, there needs to be processes in place for any patient receiving virtual care to raise any concerns that they may have regarding the care received.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

**Virtual medicine:** For the purposes of this policy virtual medicine is the practice of respiratory therapy delivered through various electronic means including but not limited to; telephone, voice or text, and the internet via Skype, Zoom, Team meetings, etc.

## 3. POLICY

The Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) providing care must use their professional judgment to determine if the use of virtual medicine is appropriate in each circumstance.

The RRT intending to provide virtual care to Manitoba citizens must initially provide a completed registration verification form to the Registrar of the Manitoba Association of Registered Respiratory Therapists (MARRT). The form is available from the Respiratory Therapy regulatory body of each of the regulated jurisdictions. The intent of this form is to verify that the RRT holds a current, valid practicing license necessary to practice respiratory therapy and that they are in good standing. MARRT will then decide if the individual meets the requirements to provide virtual care to Manitobans.

The RRT must also provide to the Registrar a signed declaration form indicating that the patient/s have received information on how to register a complaint or concern with the regulatory body, regarding the care received.

The patient can file a complaint or concern with either the regulatory body (home province) the RRT is licensed with, or with MARRT.

If filed through MARRT the concern will be forwarded to the home province for further investigation as MARRT has no jurisdiction over processing a complaint against an RRT licensed in another province.

All Standards of Care and Code of Ethics, applicable to the practice of respiratory care in Manitoba and the home province must be followed and meet the same expectations as those provided in person. It is the responsibility of the RRT to review and be familiar with both sets of standards and codes.

Please note that as various health regulatory colleges continue to discuss and develop policies regarding virtual medicine that it is a dynamic evolving form of care. As such these guidelines will change and be updated frequently. It is the employer's and the RRT's responsibility to continuously ensure that they are practicing within the most current guidelines relevant to their home province and the patient's province.

#### **4. REFERENCES**

The Registered Respiratory Therapists Act, C.C.S.M. c.R115

<https://www.marrrt.org/site/profession/rrt?nav=sidebar>

Manitoba Alliance of Healthcare Regulatory Colleges Guidance on Telepractice

<https://marrrt.org/uploaded/web/Clinical%20Practice%20Guideline%20-%20Telepractice.pdf>

MARRT Standards of Practice

<https://www.marrrt.org/site/profession/standards?nav=sidebar>

MARRT Code of Ethics

<https://www.marrrt.org/site/profession/codeofethics?nav=sidebar>