

Effective Date: June 5, 2024

Review Date: 2028

1. Purpose:

On February 4, 2022, the MVMA adopted a new by-law to allow for a VCPR to be established without a hands-on examination of an animal or without visiting the premises where the animal is kept in limited circumstances.

This policy serves to provide transparency to the permit and audit processes.

2. Definitions:

Telemedicine files: Patient files where a VCPR is established without a hands-on examination of an animal and/or visiting the premises where the animal is kept. This applies to both new and existing patients where there has not been a hands-on examination of an animal and/or visiting the premises where the animal is kept within the last 12 months.

3. Procedure:

- 1) Telemedicine Permit Application Process (PIPS Inspected Practice)
 - a) A practice that holds a valid Inspection Certificate under section 2.1.1 of the MVMA PIPS By-Law, may apply to the MVMA for a Telemedicine Permit- [Telemedicine Permit Application](#).
 - b) The application must be completed and signed by a practicing veterinarian member who is authorized by the clinic owner (licensed veterinarian(s) or veterinary corporation).
- 2) Telemedicine Notification form (individual member)
 - a) After obtaining a Telemedicine Permit for a PIPS inspected practice, each individual licensed veterinarian must submit a [Telemedicine Notification Form](#), prior to establishing a VCPR through telemedicine alone.
- 3) Audit
 - a) At each PIPS Inspection:
 - i) The PIPS Inspector will ask clinics that hold a Telemedicine Permit for access to files that establish a VCPR via telemedicine, OR
 - ii) If the practice does not hold a Telemedicine Permit, the PIPS Inspector will ask if any VCPRs are established via telemedicine. If so, they will educate the clinic and report same to the Registrar.
 - b) When reviewing medical records as part of a PIPS Inspection, the Inspector will audit to see that a VCPR is properly established.

4. References:

As per the [MVMA General By-Law No 1](#):

Telemedicine

4-6-3 A Practicing Veterinarian Member may establish a VCPR without a hands-on examination of an animal and/or visiting the premises where the animal is kept only if the member documents a compelling justification and rationale for why establishing VCPR solely via telemedicine is needed. Further:

- (a) The member cannot prescribe any Control Substances, Benzodiazepines or class-Z drugs when the VCPR that is established solely through telemedicine.
- (b) The veterinarian providing telemedicine in Manitoba must be licensed in Manitoba.
- (c) A VCPR cannot be established for a group of animals (for example a herd, flock, or school) via telemedicine.
 - i. A VCPR can be established via telemedicine alone if the animals are intended for personal use only and there is not reasonable access to veterinary care.
- (d) The veterinarian must be practicing out of an MVMA PIPS Inspected Practice that holds a valid Telemedicine Permit.
- (e) When practicing via telemedicine, the veterinarian must:
 - i. Disclose their identity, location and licence status;
 - ii. Confirm the identity of the client and animal(s);
 - iii. Consider the existing health status of the animal or group of animals, the specific health needs and specific circumstances, and only use telemedicine if the risks do not outweigh the potential benefits;
 - iv. Identify what resources (e.g. information and communication technology, equipment, support staff, etc.) are required, and only proceed if those resources are available and can be used effectively;
 - v. Ensure the reliability, quality and timeliness of the information obtained;
 - vi. Protect the privacy and confidentiality of the client's and animal(s) information, inclusive of evaluating the technology and the physical setting;
 - vii. Ensure the physical setting in which the care is being delivered is appropriate and safe, including having a plan to manage adverse events and/or emergencies;
 - viii. Explain to the client any limitations of proceeding with telemedicine to provide the veterinary services required; and,

- ix. Provide access to in-person follow-up care in Manitoba.

As per the [MVMA PIPS By-Law](#):

13. Telemedicine

- a. A veterinary practice that holds an Inspection Certificate under section 2.1.1 may apply to the Registrar for a Telemedicine Permit.
- b. Each veterinary practice that holds a Telemedicine Permit must provide a copy of all telemedicine records to an MVMA Inspector upon request for audit. The veterinary practice must pay a Telemedicine Audit fee for each audit.