**Continuity of Care**

**Can an out-of-state Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) provide continuity of care to clients in Virginia?**

House bill 537allows telehealth treatment into Virginia by out-of-state LCSWs providing behavioral health services to a client in Virginia.

As of July 1, 2022, an out-of-state LCSW can provide continuity of care via telehealth to their clients located in Virginia for up to one year. The limitations are that the patient-practitioner relationship must have been previously established and the telehealth visits are limited to a maximum of one year.

Effective July 1, 2022, the Virginia Code § 54.1-3601.6 will state:

*Any person who is licensed to practice as a clinical social worker in another state, the District of*

*Columbia, or a United States territory or possession and who is in good standing with the applicable*

*regulatory agency in that state, the District of Columbia, or that United States territory or possession*

*who provides behavioral health services, as defined in § 37.2-100, to a patient located in the*

*Commonwealth when (i) such practice is for the purpose of providing continuity of care through the use*

*of telemedicine services as defined in § 38.2-3418.16 and (ii) the clinical social worker has previously*

*established a practitioner-patient relationship with the patient. A person who is licensed to practice as*

*clinical social worker who provides behavioral health services to a patient located in the*

*Commonwealth through use of telemedicine services pursuant to this subdivision may provide such*

*services for a period of no more than one year from the date on which the clinical social worker began providing such services to such patient.*

**Can Virginia LCSWs provide continuity of care to clients located in another state?**

Licensees should check with the State Board in which the client is located for their requirements.

**Temporary Authorization to Practice**

**Who can apply for temporary authorization to practice?**

Virginia Code § 54.1-2408.4, enacted by Chapter 464 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, permits health care practitioners licensed, certified, or registered in another state or the District of Columbia to temporarily practice in the Commonwealth for 90 days provided certain provisions are met. Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) may **only** practice temporarily for 90 days after receiving an offer of employment or contract for services from: **(1) a hospital licensed by the Virginia Department of Health, (2) a nursing home, (3) a dialysis facility, (4) the Virginia Department of Health, or (5) a local health department.**

Eligible employers and contract service recipients must fill out the [Out-of-state temporary practitioner reporting form](https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/forms/psychology/Behavioral_Out-of-State_Temporary_Practitioner.docx) before the practitioner begins temporarily practicing in Virginia.