

WVMA Member:

Please see the below message from Melissa Mace, Veterinary Examining Board Executive Director, in regards to FDA's guidance on telemedicine.

The FDA has [released](#) a notification that they are not enforcing their requirement for a VCPR when prescribing [Extralabel Drug Use in Animals](#) and [Veterinary Feed Directive \(VFD\) drugs](#), at the federal level. However, State laws on Veterinarian Client Patient Relationships (VCPR) supersede the federal regulations in this situation.

The State of Wisconsin also requires a physical exam of an animal, or timely visits to the premises, to establish a VCPR. WI law also requires a valid VCPR to prescribe medications including drugs for extra label use and drugs used in feed. In WI the criteria for a valid VCPR is set by statute and cannot be waived by the VEB. That said, there is no statutory or administrative rule that sets a time frame on frequency of physical exams, or visits to the premises, to maintain a valid VCPR. Given the current circumstances, you should use sound judgement regarding whether a physical exam is necessary based on the medical concern and what is appropriate based on that concern (assuming there is an established VCPR based on a prior exam, or visit to the premises at some point).

The VEB understands these are extraordinary times and that the health of our animals and the public are our primary focus. We encourage you to act in medically responsible ways during this time to provide the needed services and be sure to document all treatment and the current circumstances in your records. The current situation will be taken into consideration if there were any future review of the action by the board.

Sincerely,

Kim Brown Pokorny, MS, MBA
Executive Director
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association

Check the [WVMA COVID-19 Resource Page](#) for the latest news pertaining to COVID-19 and veterinary medicine. We will continue to update the page as we receive new information.