
CHAPTER 5: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Telemedicine/Telehealth

Telemedicine/telehealth is the use of a telecommunications system to render healthcare services when a physician or other licensed practitioner and a beneficiary are not in the same location.

The telecommunications system shall include, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the beneficiary at the originating site and the physician or other licensed practitioner at the distant site. The telecommunications system must be secure, ensure patient confidentiality, and be compliant with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Originating site means the location of the Medicaid beneficiary at the time the services are provided. There is no restriction on the originating site and it can include, but is not limited to, a healthcare facility, school, or the beneficiary's home.

Distant site means the site at which the physician or other licensed practitioner is located at the time the services are provided.

When otherwise covered, services located in the Telemedicine appendix of the CPT manual, or its successor, may be reimbursed when provided by telemedicine/telehealth. In addition, other specified services may be reimbursed when provided by telemedicine/telehealth and these services are explicitly noted in this manual. Physicians and other licensed practitioners must continue to adhere to all existing clinical policy for all services rendered. Providing services through telemedicine/telehealth does not remove or add any medical necessity requirements.

Reimbursement

Louisiana Medicaid only reimburses the distant site provider for services provided via telemedicine/telehealth. Reimbursement for services provided by telemedicine/telehealth is at the same level as services provided in person.

The beneficiary's clinical record must include documentation that the service was provided through the use of telemedicine/telehealth.

NOTE: The distant site provider must be enrolled as a Louisiana Medicaid provider to receive reimbursement for covered services rendered to Louisiana Medicaid beneficiaries.

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Billing

Medicaid covered services provided using telemedicine must be identified on claims submissions form by appending the modifier “95” to the applicable procedure code and indicate Place of Service (POS) 02. Both the correct POS and modifier must be present on the claim to receive reimbursement.