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Health and Human
Services

Medicaid Telemedicine and Telehealth Services

TexLa Virtual Office Hours

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Medicaid Fee-for-Service

Existing Medicaid Coverage

Telemedicine Service Procedure Codes

- Psychiatric diagnostic evaluations
- Psychotherapy
- Prolonged psychotherapy
- Evaluation and management services
- Inpatient consultations
- End-stage renal disease services
- FQHC encounter payments
- Patient site facility fee



Existing Medicaid Coverage (cont.)

Telemedicine Service Provider Types

- Physicians and Physician Groups
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Clinic/Group Practices
- Hospitals
- County Indigent Health Care Programs
- Federally Qualified Health Centers



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Existing Medicaid Coverage (cont.)

Telehealth Service Procedure Codes

- Psychiatric diagnostic evaluations
- Psychotherapy
- End-stage renal disease services
- Speech and occupational therapies
 - School-based settings and for ECI clients
- Medical nutritional counseling
- Evaluation and management services
- Inpatient consultations
- FQHC encounter payments
- ECI specialized skills training



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Existing Medicaid Coverage (cont.)

Telehealth Service Provider Types

- Licensed Professional Counselors
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Psychologists and Psychology Groups
- Registered Nurses and Nurse Midwives
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Home Health Agencies
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Dieticians



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Existing Medicaid Coverage (cont.)

Modalities for Telemedicine and Telehealth Services

- Synchronous audiovisual interaction
- Asynchronous store and forward technology, including in conjunction with a synchronous audio interaction
- Other forms of audiovisual telecommunication technologies that allow the distant site provider to meet the in-person standard of care.



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Medicaid Managed Care

Existing Medicaid Coverage

Modality Exceptions for Managed Care

- Health benefit plans, including Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), may provide reimbursement for telemedicine or telehealth services provided as:
 - Audio-only telephone consultations.
 - Text-only email messages.
 - Fax transmissions.



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COVID-19 Flexibilities

Current Status

- The telemedicine and telehealth service COVID-19 policy flexibilities are being extended on a month-by-month basis.
- Ongoing meetings to discuss adding flexibilities as permanent policy.



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COVID-19 Flexibilities (cont.)

Important Notes

- Some services included in the flexibilities are not explicitly outlined in the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM) for reimbursement as telemedicine or telehealth services.
- Services identified for telephone (audio-only) coverage may also be delivered as synchronous audiovisual services.



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Telephone (Audio-Only) Services

Telemedicine and Telehealth Service Procedure Codes

- Psychiatric diagnostic evaluations
- Psychotherapy
- Peer specialist services
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- Substance use disorder services
- Mental health rehabilitation
- Targeted case management
- Evaluation and management services



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S.B. 670

Changes to Managed Care Coverage

- S.B. 670 (86th Legislature, 2019) prohibits Medicaid MCOs from denying reimbursement for covered services solely because they are delivered remotely.
- All medically necessary Medicaid-covered benefits provided via telemedicine or telehealth services must also be considered for reimbursement.
- Policy changes implemented December 1, 2020.



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S.B. 670 (cont.)

Managed Care Coverage Considerations

- Medicaid MCOs must determine whether to provide reimbursement using the following considerations:
 - Medical necessity.
 - Clinical effectiveness.
 - The telemedicine service provided is cost-effective.
 - The telemedicine service is provided in accordance with the law and contract requirements applicable to the provision of the same health-care service provided in person.
 - The use of telemedicine promotes and supports patient-centered medical homes.





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Thank you

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