



## Policy Clarification: Medicaid Telehealth Coverage

Alaska Medicaid covers a wide range of services when conducted through a telehealth mode of delivery when that service is provided in accordance with all standards set out in AS 47.07 and 7 AAC 105 – 7 AAC 160.

### Covered Telehealth Modes of Delivery:

- Live or interactive; to be eligible for payment under this paragraph, the service must be provided through the use of camera, video, or dedicated audio conference equipment on a real-time basis; medical services provided by a telephone that is not part of a dedicated audio conference system or by a facsimile machine are not eligible for payment under this paragraph;
- Store-and-forward; to be eligible for payment under this paragraph, the service must be provided through the transference of digital images, sounds, or previously recorded video from one location to another to allow a consulting provider to obtain information, analyze it, and report back to the referring provider;
- Self-monitoring or testing; to be eligible for payment under this paragraph, the services must be provided by a telehealth application based in the recipient's home, with the provider only indirectly involved in the provision of the service.

### Allowed Services through Telehealth:

- Evaluation and management services for initial and follow up exams
- Consultations made to confirm a diagnosis
- Diagnostic, therapeutic, or interpretive services
- Psychiatric or substance abuse assessment
- Psychotherapy
- Pharmacological management services on an individual recipient basis

### Services Excluded from Telehealth:

- Home and community-based waiver services
- Pharmacy services
- Durable medical equipment services
- Transportation services
- Accommodation services
- End-stage renal disease services
- Direct-entry midwife services
- Private-duty nursing services
- Personal care assistant services
- Visual care, dispensing, or optician services

## **Office Consultations:**

Additional policy guidance on office consultations via telehealth application can be found at:

[http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/dnld/Update\\_Telemedicine\\_Applications\\_Policy\\_Clarification.pdf](http://manuals.medicaidalaska.com/docs/dnld/Update_Telemedicine_Applications_Policy_Clarification.pdf)

## **Billing for Telehealth:**

Telehealth is considered a mode of delivery and is reimbursed at the same rate as if done in person. To bill for services, the distant site provider must bill the applicable procedure code along with the following:

Live interactive mode: Add modifier GT or 95

Store-and-forward mode: Add modifier GQ

Audio only mode: Add modifier FQ for dates of service on or after 3/1/2022

Place of Service: Use place of service 10 if member is in their home during the telehealth visit and 02 if member is at any other location.

If a provider is at the originating site, and a separately identifiable service is performed then that service should be billed as normal, no telehealth modifier or place of service should be utilized.

## **Telehealth Registry**

Information on requirements for the Telehealth Business Registry License can be found at the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development at: [Telemedicine Business Registry](#)

## **Definitions:**

- Telehealth means practice of health care delivery, evaluation, diagnosis, consultation, or treatment, using the transfer of medical data, audio, visual, or data communications that are performed over two or more locations between providers who are physically separated from the recipient or from each other.
- Originating site means the location of member
- Distant site means the location of the provider utilizing a telehealth mode to deliver a service