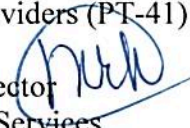




MEMORANDUM

To: Medicaid Home Health Agency Providers (PT-41)
From: Marlana R. Hutchinson, Acting Director 
Office of Long Term Supports and Services
Subject: Telehealth Guidance for Home Health Agencies
Date: May 21, 2020

NOTE: Please ensure that the appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this memorandum.

Background

On March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency due to disease (“COVID-19”) caused by the novel coronavirus. The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 and was previously declared a nationwide public health emergency on January 31, 2020 (retroactive to January 27, 2020).

The measures outlined in this document are restricted to use during the emergency declared by Governor Hogan related to the threat of COVID-19 and will expire immediately at the end of the declared emergency or when revised by additional orders.

On March 11, 2020, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Secretary Robert R. Neall issued [COVID-19 #1: Temporary Expansion of Medicaid Regulations to Permit Delivery of Telehealth Services to the Home to Mitigate Possible Spread of Novel Coronavirus \(“COVID-19”\)](#). The order temporarily expands the definition of a telehealth originating site under COMAR 10.09.49.06 to include a participant’s home or any other secure location as approved by the participant and the provider for the purpose of delivery of Medicaid-covered services. The purpose of this expansion of regulatory authority is to ensure individuals can access certain health care services in their own home while mitigating possible risk for transmission of COVID-19. This expansion applies to services delivered to a Medicaid participant via fee-for-service, specifically in this case, **home health services governed by COMAR 10.09.04**. This expansion will remain in place until further notice.

Medicaid distant site providers delivering services via telehealth to a participant in their home must continue to comply with all other requirements of COMAR 10.09.49 and the Maryland Medicaid Telehealth Program Manual.

Any provider type is permitted to render telehealth services within their scope of practice. The Telehealth Program does not have any geographic restrictions. Services that either require in-person evaluation or cannot be reasonably delivered via telehealth are not eligible for reimbursement.

Services provided through telehealth are subject to the same program restrictions, preauthorizations, limitations and coverage that exist for the service when provided in-person.

Billing Guidance for Telehealth Services - Home Health Agency Providers

The Maryland Medicaid Program is issuing this guidance to address questions regarding how Home Health Agency Providers should submit claims for services delivered via telehealth.

To bill for home health telehealth services, providers must bill using the appropriate revenue code for the services rendered. See Home Health Transmittal No. 67 dated February 21, 2020 for Calendar Year 2020 Home Health Fee Schedule.

<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/MCOupdates/Documents/PT%2021-20%20Calendar%20Year%202020%20Home%20Health%20Fee%20Schedule.pdf>

Home Health Revenue Codes:

- Skilled Nursing – 0551
- Home Health Aide – 0571
- Physical Therapy – 0421
- Occupational Therapy – 0431
- Speech Pathology – 0441

No change to billing procedure and no modifiers are required.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid - Home Health Agencies: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19

Guidance issued on April 29 allows Home Health Agencies to provide more services to participants using telehealth within the 30 day episode of care, so long as it is part of the patient's plan of care and does not replace needed in-person visits as ordered on the plan of care. CMS acknowledges that the use of such technology may result in changes to the frequency or types of in-person visits outlined on existing or new plans of care. Read the full guidance, [cms.gov/files/document/covid-home-health-agencies](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-home-health-agencies).

See Secretary Neall's guidance [COVID-19 #4a: Temporary Authorization of Audio-Only Health Care Services to Mitigate Possible Spread of Novel Coronavirus \("COVID-19"\) Executive Order No. 20-03-20-01](#) - **Home Health Agency Providers disregard billing.**

See also [Telehealth Program Manual Updated: April 2020](#) - **Home Health Agency Providers disregard reimbursement.**

For general guidance on the delivery of services by phone or via telehealth, see Secretary Neall's [COVID-19 #14: Use of Telephonic and Electronic Means of Communication in lieu of Face-to-Face Contact by Direct Care Providers](#)

For information on Remote Patient Monitoring, see Secretary Neall's [COVID-19 #6: Temporary Expansion of Remote Patient Monitoring Services](#).

For Maryland Medicaid's Telehealth Program information, visit mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/telehealth.aspx.

Home Health Services Regulations

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=10.09.04.*

For Medicaid COVID-19 provider updates, visit mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Provider-Updates.

For questions about the Coronavirus, visit coronavirus.maryland.gov.