

Arizona

Medicaid Program: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

Program Administrator: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Administration

Regional Telehealth Resource Center

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Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p>Under Arizona Statute, Public Health & Safety, "telemedicine means the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation and treatment and the transfer of medical data through interactive audio, video or data communications that occur in the physical presence of the patient, including audio or video communications sent to a health care provider for diagnostic or treatment consultation."</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Revised Statute Sec. 36-3601 (2012).</i></p> <p>Under State Administrative Code, Department of Insurance, Health Care Services Organizations Oversight, "telemedicine means diagnostic, consultation, and treatment services that occur in the physical presence of an enrollee on a real-time basis through interactive audio, video, or data communication."</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Admin. Code Sec. R20-6-1902 (2012).</i></p> <p>"Telemedicine means the interactive use of audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. Does not include the sole use of an audio-only telephone, a video-only system, a facsimile machine, instant messages or electronic mail."</p> <p><i>Source: AZ SB 1353 (2013).</i></p> <p>Under the Board of Behavioral health, "telepractice" means providing behavioral health services through interactive audio, video or electronic communication that occurs between the behavioral health professional and the client, including any electronic communication for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment, including distance counseling, in a secure platform, and that meets the requirements of telemedicine pursuant to section 36-3602.</p>	<p>Telemedicine is "the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation and treatment and the transfer of medical data between the originating and distant sites through real time interactive audio, video or data communications that occur in the physical presence of the member."</p> <p>Telehealth is "the use of telecommunications and information technology to provide access to health assessment, diagnosis, intervention, consultation, supervision and information across distance."</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Medical Policy for AHCCCS Covered Services, Ch. 300, p. 183. Apr. 2012. (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Telemedicine means the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, and treatment and the transfer of medical data through interactive audio, video, and data communications that occur in the physical presence of the patient.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System Telehealth Policy. Mar. 2015. (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>

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<p>NOTE: Rules regarding the use of telepractice will be adopted beginning Nov. 1, 2015.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Revised Statute Sec. 32-3251(15) (2015).</i></p>	
Live Video Reimbursement	
<p>Health Care Service Organizations (HCSO) are allowed, but not mandated, to provide access to covered services through telemedicine, telephone, and email.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Admin. Code Sec. R20-6-1915 (2012)</i></p> <p>Private payers are required to provide coverage for live video consultations when treating specific conditions and the originating site is located in a rural region.</p> <p>Allowed Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma • Burn • Cardiology • Infectious diseases • Mental health disorders • Neurologic diseases including strokes • Dermatology <p>A rural region is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area that is located in a county with a population of less than nine hundred thousand persons; or • A city or town that is located in a county with a population of nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five hundred thousand persons or more. <p><i>Source: AZ Statutes 20-841.09.</i></p>	<p><u>Fee for Service</u> AHCCCS will reimburse for medically necessary services provided via live video in their fee for service program.</p> <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiology; • Dermatology; • Endocrinology; • Hematology/oncology; • Home Health • Infectious diseases; • Neurology; • Obstetrics/gynecology; • Oncology/radiation; • Ophthalmology; • Orthopedics; • Pain clinic; • Pathology; • Pediatrics and pediatric sub-specialties; • Radiology; • Rheumatology; • Surgery follow-up and consults; <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Provider Manual, Ch. 10: Professional and Technical Services, p. 38 (Nov. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Additional Covered Services (listed in Telehealth Policy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health • Inpatient consultation • Medical Nutrition Therapy (MTN) • Office, outpatient, and surgery follow-up-consultations • Pain management • Pharmacy management <p>Telehealth policy lists covered codes.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System Telehealth Policy. Mar. 2015. (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Eligible Providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician • Registered nurse practitioner • Physician assistant • Certified nurse midwife • Clinical psychologist • Licensed clinical social worker

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed marriage and family therapist • Licensed professional counselor <p>Out-of-state providers may provide and bill for spoke and/or hub telehealth services.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System Telehealth Policy. Mar. 2015. (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Behavioral health services are covered for AHCCS and KidsCare patients.</p> <p>Covered behavioral health services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic consultation and evaluation; • Psychotropic medication adjustment and monitoring; • Individual and family counseling; • Case management. <p>The patient's primary care provider (PCP), attending physician, other medical professional employed by the PCP, or an attending physician who is familiar with the patient's condition, must be present.</p> <p>Other medical professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered nurses; • Licensed practical nurses; • Clinical nurse specialists; • Registered nurse midwives; • Registered nurse practitioners; • Physician assistants; • Physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapists; • Trained telepresenter familiar with the recipient's medical condition. <p>For behavioral health services, the patient's physician, case manager, behavioral health professional, or telepresenter must be present.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Provider Manual, Ch. 10: Professional and Technical Services, p. 39 (Nov. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Teledentistry services will be reimbursed for enrollees under the age of 21.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Bill SB 1282 (2015).</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
<p>The definition of "telemedicine", which describes telemedicine as occurring in the "physical presence" of the patient, would exclude store and forward.</p>	<p><u>Fee for Service</u> AHCCCS will reimburse for store-and-forward in their fee-for-service program. The same services are covered for store and forward, as for real time.</p>

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<p><i>Source: AZ Admin. Code Sec. R20-6-1902 (2012).</i></p>	<p>Real time telemedicine is the only type of reimbursement available in the field of Behavioral Health Services.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Provider Manual, Ch. 10: Professional and Technical Services, p. 38 (Nov. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p><u>Fee for Service and Managed Care</u> AHCCCS only covers for store and forward (and is subject for review) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dermatology • Radiology • Ophthalmology • Pathology <p><i>Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual for AHCCCS Covered Services, Ch. 300, Policy 320 Services With Special Circumstances, p. 185 (Apr. 2012). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>The following exceptions may be eligible for reimbursement, but are not considered a “telemedicine service”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A provider in the role of tele-presenter may be providing a separately billable service, such as an electrocardiogram or an X-ray. The service is covered, but not the tele-presenting. • A consulting distant-site provider may offer a service that does not require real-time patient interaction. Reimbursement only for dermatology, radiology, ophthalmology, and pathology. It is subject to review by AHCCCS Medical Management. • When a patient in a rural area presents within three hours of onset of stroke symptoms, AHCCCS will reimburse the consulting neurologist if the consult is placed for assistance in determining appropriateness of thrombolytic therapy even when the patients’ condition is such that real-time video interaction cannot be achieved. <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, Medical Policy for AHCCCS Covered Services, Ch. 300, Policy 320: Services With Special Circumstances, page 185, (Apr. 2012). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
No reference found.	Home health is listed as a reimbursable service in fee for service, but no other reference was found or

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	<p>explanation of what is considered a “home health” service.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Provider Manual, Ch. 10: Professional and Technical Services, p. 38 (Nov. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p><u>Fee for Service and Managed Care</u> AHCCCS program only reimburses for telemedicine delivered via real time, Home Health is not a covered service under this program.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System .AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual for AHCCCS Covered Services, Ch. 300, Policy 320 Services With Special Circumstances, p. 184 (Apr. 2012). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Email/Phone/FAX	
<p>Health Care Service Organizations are allowed, but not mandated, to provide covered services through telemedicine, telephone, and email.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Admin. Code Sec. R20-6-1915 (2012).</i></p> <p>No Phone No Email No Fax</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Statutes 20-841.09.</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Online Prescribing	
<p>Physicians are prohibited from issuing a prescription to patients without having a physical or mental health status examination to establish a provider-patient relationship.</p> <p>The physical or mental health status examination can be conducting during a real-time telemedicine encounter.</p> <p><i>Source: Arizona Revised Statute Sec. 32-1401 (SB 1339).</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Consent	
<p>Providers must obtain and document oral or written consent before delivery of services. Oral consent should be documented on the patient’s medical record.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Revised Statute Sec. 36-3602 (2012).</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Location	
<p>Private payers are required to provide coverage when the originating site is located in a rural region, which is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area that is located in a county with a population of less than nine hundred thousand persons; or • A city or town that is located in a county with a 	<p>Eligible hub or spoke sites for Indian Health Services or tribal providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Health Service clinic; • Tribally-governed facility; • Urban clinic for American Indians; • Physician or other provider office;

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<p>population of nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five hundred thousand persons or more.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Statutes 20-841.09.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital; • Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System Telehealth Policy. Mar. 2015. (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Fee for service manual definitions:</p> <p>Hub site – “the location of the telemedicine consulting provider, which is considered the place of service.”</p> <p>Spoke site – “the location where the recipient is receiving the telemedicine service.”</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Provider Manual, Ch. 10: Professional and Technical Services, p. 38 (Nov. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Cross-State Licensing	
<p>An out-of-state doctor may engage in a single or infrequent consultation with an Arizona physician.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Revised Statute Sec. 32-1421 (2012).</i></p>	<p><u>Fee for Service and Managed Care</u></p> <p>A consultation by a non-Arizona licensed provider may occur if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is to a specific patient in the AHCCCS program; • The provider is registered with AHCCCS; • The provider is licensed in the state the consultation is being provided from, or the provider is employed by an Indian Health Services, Tribal or Urban Indian Health program and appropriately licensed based on IHS and Tribal facility requirements. <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, Medical Policy for AHCCCS Covered Services, Ch. 300, Policy 320: Services With Special Circumstances, page 186, (Apr. 2012), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Private Payers	
<p>Private payers are required to provide coverage for live video consultations when treating specific conditions and the originating site is located in a rural region.</p> <p>Allowed Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma • Burn • Cardiology • Infectious diseases • Mental health disorders • Neurologic diseases including strokes • Dermatology <p>A rural region is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area that is located in a county with a population of less than nine hundred thousand persons; or 	<p>No reference found.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A city or town that is located in a county with a population of nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five hundred thousand persons or more. <p><i>Source: AZ Statutes 20-841.09.</i></p>	
Site/Transmission Fee	
No reference found.	<p>A facility fee is not an AHCCCS covered service.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System Telehealth Policy. Mar. 2015. (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Miscellaneous	
<p>Arizona explicitly prohibits the use of telemedicine to provide an abortion.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Revised Statute Sec. 36-3604 (2012).</i></p>	<p><u>Fee for Service and Managed Care</u></p> <p>There is reimbursement for non-emergency transportation to and from the telemedicine originating site.</p> <p><i>Source: AZ Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCS Medical Policy Manual, Medical Policy for AHCCCS Covered Services, Ch. 300, Policy 320: Services With Special Circumstances, page 186, (Apr. 1, 2012). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>