

California

Medicaid Program: Medi-Cal

Program Administrator: California Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Regional Telehealth Resource Center:

California Telehealth Resource Center (CTRC)

2001 P Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 341-3378 / (877) 590-8144

www.caltrc.org

STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p>“Telehealth means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient’s health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.”</p> <p><i>Source: CA Business & Professions Code Sec. 2290.5 (2012).</i></p> <p>Telemedicine is “the ability of physicians and patients to connect via technology other than through virtual interactive physician/patient capabilities, especially enabling rural and out-of-area patients to be seen by specialists remotely.”</p> <p><i>Source: CA Code of Reg. Title 10 Sec. 6410.</i></p>	<p>Telehealth [according to the Telehealth Advancement Act of 2011] “is the mode of delivering health care services and public health utilizing information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management and self-management of a patient’s health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at the distant site.”</p> <p>“Telemedicine [according to CMS] is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another using interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time, interactive communication between the patient and physician or practitioner at the distant site to improve a patient’s health. Medi-Cal uses the term telemedicine when it makes a distinction from telehealth.”</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 1. (Dec. 2013) (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Live Video Reimbursement	
<p>Private payers may reimburse for live video. (See “Private Payers” section).</p> <p><i>Source: CA Health & Safety Code Sec. 1374.13 (2012).</i></p> <p>(also see Medicaid column)</p>	<p>Medi-Cal will reimbursement for services provided via live video.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 1. (Dec. 2013), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
<p>Private payers may reimburse for store and forward.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Business & Professions Code Sec. 2290.5 (2012).</i></p> <p>(also see Medicaid column)</p>	<p>Medi-Cal will reimburse for store and forward services for tele-dermatology, tele-ophthalmology and teledentistry.</p> <p><i>Source: Sec. 14132.725 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.</i></p> <p><i>Source (tele-dermatology & tele-ophthalmology): CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine</i></p>

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	<p><i>Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 5. (Dec. 2013), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Allied dental professionals are not permitted to bill for teledentistry.</p> <p>Specific list of acceptable CPT codes included in Denti-Cal Handbook.</p> <p><i>Source: Denti-Cal Provider Handbook. Pg. 123-124. (Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Email/Phone/FAX	
No reference found.	<p>Medi-Cal does not reimburse for telephone calls, electronic mail messages or facsimile transmissions.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 5. (Dec. 2013), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Online Prescribing	
<p>Providers are prohibited from prescribing or dispensing dangerous drugs or dangerous devices on the Internet without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Business & Professions Code Sec. 2242.1(a).</i></p>	No reference found.
Consent	
<p>The originating site provider must obtain and document verbal or written patient consent prior to service delivery.</p> <p><i>CA Health & Safety Code Sec. 1374.13.</i></p> <p><u>Occupational Therapy</u> Oral informed consent must be obtained by the originating site prior to the use of telehealth to deliver health services.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Code of Regulations, Title 16, Div. 39, Art. 8, Sec. 4172.</i></p>	<p>Provider must obtain oral consent from the patient and document it in the patient record.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 2. (Dec. 2013), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Location	
<p>Health plans cannot limit the settings where services are provided. Settings are still subject to contract terms and conditions.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Health & Safety Code Sec. 1374.13 (2012).</i></p>	<p>The type of setting where services are provided is not limited.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 1. (Dec. 2013), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Cross-State Licensing	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Private Payers	
Private payers cannot require that in-person contact	No reference found.

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<p>occur before payment is made for covered telehealth services, subject to contract terms and conditions.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Health & Safety Code Sec. 1374.13 (2012).</i></p>	
Site/Transmission Fee	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>Medi-Cal will reimburse the originating site a facility fees, and originating and distant site for live video transmission costs.</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Part 2 General Medicine Manual. Telehealth. Pg. 2. (Dec. 2013), (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Miscellaneous	
<p>The CA Board of Occupational Therapy adopted a new rule titled, "Standards of Practice for Telehealth," to establish standards and expectations associated with the delivery of occupational therapy services via information and communication technology.</p> <p><u>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2016)</u> Any licensed health care provider or marriage and family therapist, intern or trainee is an authorized telehealth provider.</p> <p><i>Source: Assembly Bill 250 (2015), CA Business and Professions Code Sec. 2290.5.</i></p>	<p>Medi-Cal covers telehealth to the extent services are allowable and reimbursed according to the department's telehealth manual in the California Children's Services Program (CCS), Genetically Handicapped Person's Program (GHPP) and Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP).</p> <p><i>Source: CA Department of Health Care Services. Medi-Cal Special Programs FAQs. (accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Telehealth services and supports are among the services and supports authorized to be included by individual program plans developed for disabled individuals by regional centers that contract with the State Department of Developmental Disabilities.</p> <p><i>Source: Welfare and Institutions Code Sec. 4512.</i></p>

Comments:

New Regulations Passed

- CA Board of Occupational Therapy (*Source: Title 16, Div. 39, Sec. 4172*)