

# Florida

**Medicaid Program:** Florida Medicaid

**Program Administrator:** Florida Dept. of Children and Families

**Regional Telehealth Resource Center:**

Southeast Telehealth Resource Center  
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STATE LAW	MEDICAID PROGRAM
<b>Definition of telemedicine/telehealth</b>	
<p>“Telemedicine’ means the practice of medicine by a licensed Florida physician or physician assistant where patient care, treatment, or services are provided through the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications. Telemedicine shall not include the provision of health care services only through an audio only telephone, email messages, text messages, facsimile transmission, U.S. Mail or other parcel service, or any combination thereof.”</p> <p><i>Source: FL Admin Code 64B8-9.0141 &amp; 64B15-14.0081.</i></p>	<p>“Telemedicine” is “the use of telecommunication and information technology to provide clinical care to individuals at a distance, and to transmit the information needed to provide that care.”</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Child Protection Team Program, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p.79 (Jun. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>“Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient’s health. Electronic communication means the use of interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two way, real time interactive communication between the patient, and the physician at the distant site.”</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p.136 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>“Telemedicine is the practice of health care using telecommunication equipment by the treating provider (at the spoke site) for the provision of approved covered services by the consulting provider (at the hub site) for the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis or treatment.”</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Specialized Therapeutic Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p.12 (Mar. 2014) &amp; FL Community Behavioral Health Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p. 10 (Mar. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
<b>Live Video Reimbursement</b>	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>Reimbursement is available through Florida Medicaid.</p> <p>Only physicians can provide and receive reimbursement for telemedicine services.</p> <p>A physician, ARNP or PA may initiate a consultation from the spoke site. The referring practitioner must be present during the consultation as well as the recipient.</p>

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	<p>Special documentation: When telemedicine services are provided, the clinical record must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief explanation of why the services were not provided face to face;</li> <li>• Documentation of telemedicine service provided including the results of the assessment; and</li> <li>• Signed patient consent.</li> </ul> <p>Only certain consultation codes are reimbursed for telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p.137 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>For Community Behavioral Health Services Coverage providers must implement technical written policies and procedures for telemedicine systems that comply with HIPAA, as well as state and federal laws related to patient privacy.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Community Behavioral Health Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p. 10 (Mar. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Florida Medicaid will reimburse for live video in the Child Protection Team Program (see Comments), and for the following dental services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral prophylaxis;</li> <li>• Topical fluoride application;</li> <li>• Oral hygiene instructions.</li> </ul> <p>All dental services must be delivered by a registered dental hygienist, with a supervising dentist.</p> <p><i>Source (Child Protection Team Program): FL Dept. of Health, Child Protection Team Program, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p.119 (Jun. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p><i>Source (dental services): FL Dental Services Coverages and Limitations Handbook, p. 2-26, (November 2011). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
<b>Store and Forward Reimbursement</b>	
No reference found.	<p>Store and forward reimbursement is not available.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p.137 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
<b>Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Email/Phone/FAX Restrictions</b>	
<p>“Telemedicine shall not include the provision of health care services only through an audio only telephone, email messages, text messages, facsimile transmission, U.S. Mail or other parcel service, or any combination</p>	<p>No telephone reimbursement  No Email reimbursement  No Fax reimbursement  No video cell phone conversations reimbursement</p>

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<p>thereof.”</p> <p><i>Source: FL Admin Code 64B8-9.0141 &amp; 64B15-14.0081.</i></p>	<p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner, Policy and Procedure Handbook p.137 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
<b>Online Prescribing</b>	
<p>Controlled substances shall not be prescribed through the use of telemedicine.</p> <p>Exception: physicians can order controlled substances through the use of telemedicine for patients hospitalized in a facility licensed pursuant to Ch. 395, F.S.</p> <p>A physician-patient relationship may be established through telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Admin Code 64B8-9.0141 &amp; 64B15-14.0081.</i></p> <p>Prior to e-prescribing, physicians and physician assistants must document a patient evaluation, including history and physical examination, to establish the diagnosis for which any drug is prescribed, and discuss treatment options with the patient.</p> <p>These rules don't apply in emergency situations.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Admin. Code 64B8-9.014.</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
<b>Consent</b>	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>Patient informed consent is required. It can be for a set period of treatment or a one-time visit, as applicable to the services provided.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p.137 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
<b>Location</b>	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>Telecommunication with recipient at a location other than the spoke site is not allowed.</p> <p>Telemedicine services are limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital outpatient setting</li> <li>• Inpatient setting</li> <li>• Physician office</li> </ul> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p.137 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>For Specialized Therapeutic Services &amp; Community Behavioral Health Services, the service must be delivered from a facility that is enrolled in Medicaid as a community behavioral health services provider.</p> <p><i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Specialized Therapeutic Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p.46 (Mar. 2014) &amp; FL Community Behavioral Health Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p. 24 (Mar. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>

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	Both the hub and spoke sites must be located in Florida.  <i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Specialized Therapeutic Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p.9-12 (Mar. 2014) FL Community Behavioral Health Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, p. 9-10 (Mar. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i>
<b>Cross State Licensing</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Private Payers</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Site/Transmission Fee</b>	
No reference found.	Medicaid does not reimburse for the costs or fees of any of equipment.  <i>Source: FL Dept. of Health, Practitioner, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p.138-9 (Apr. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Florida's Board of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine adopted "Standards for Telemedicine Practice". See "Comments" for details not included in the categories above.  <i>Source: FL Admin Code 64B8-9.0141.</i>	

**Comments:** In 1998, the Child Protection Team (CPT) Program implemented a telemedicine network that links CPT teams with remote or satellite CPT offices, or local facilities, such as hospital emergency rooms, county health departments, or child advocacy centers, to facilitate telemedicine assessments for abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children in remote or rural areas.

Only specially trained CPT physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners or physician assistants can perform these exams. And only specifically trained registered nurses at presenting sites may participate in the exam.

*Source: Florida Department of Health, Child Protection Team Program, Policy and Procedure Handbook, p. 30 (Jun. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).*

Florida Children's Medical Services (CMS) is a collection of programs for special needs children. CMS' Telemedicine Program services are provided by approved CMS Network providers to Medicaid children enrolled in CMS. Eligible sites are limited.

*Source: Florida Children's Medical Services, Families, Health Services (Accessed Jul. 2015).*

New Regulations Passed

- FL Board of Medicine (*Source: FL Admin Code 64B8-9.0141*)
- FL Board of Osteopathic Medicine (*Source: Florida Admin Code 64B15-14.0081*)