

Georgia

Medicaid Program: Georgia Medicaid

Program Administrator: Georgia Dept. of Community Health

Regional Telehealth Resource Center:

Southeast Telehealth Resource Center

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STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p>“Telemedicine means the practice, by a duly licensed physician or other health care provider acting within the scope of such provider's practice, of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, or transfer of medical data by means of audio, video, or data communications which are used during a medical visit with a patient or which are used to transfer medical data obtained during a medical visit with a patient. Standard telephone, facsimile transmissions, unsecured e-mail, or a combination thereof do not constitute telemedicine services.”</p> <p><i>Source: Official Code of GA Annotated Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>	<p>“Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchange from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients’ health status. It is the use of two-way, real time interactive communication equipment to exchange the patient information from one site to another via an electronic communication system. This includes audio and video telecommunication equipment.”</p> <p>“Closely associated with telemedicine is the term ‘telehealth,’ which is often used to encompass a broader definition of remote healthcare that does not always involve clinical services. Telehealth is the use of telecommunication technologies for clinical care (telemedicine), patient teachings and home health, health professional education (distance learning), administrative and program planning, and other diverse aspects of a health care delivery system.”</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 2, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Live Video Reimbursement	
<p>Georgia requires coverage of telemedicine services (which includes live video), subject to contract terms and conditions. (See “Private Payers” section).</p> <p><i>Source: GA Rules & Regulations. Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>	<p>Georgia Medicaid will reimburse for live video when the service is “medically necessary, the procedure is individualized, specific, consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of an illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the member’s needs.”</p> <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office visits; • Pharmacologic management; • Limited office psychiatric services; • Limited radiological services; • A limited number of other physician fee schedule services. <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid</i></p>

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	<p><i>Telemedicine Handbook, p. 2-3, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>Georgia Medicaid will reimburse for mental health services for residents in nursing homes via telemedicine (although not available in all areas of the state) for “dual eligibles” (Medicaid and Medicare).</p> <p>Nursing facilities and community behavioral health rehabilitation (CBHRS) service providers can arrange for the provision of specialized services to residents either in nursing facilities, via telemedicine or at the CBHRS location for residents in the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review Serious Mental Illness and dually diagnosed populations.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance, Part II Policies and Procedures for Nursing Facilities, p. 189 (Jul. 1, 2015) and Part II Policies and Procedures for Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services, p. 61 (Jul. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
No reference found.	<p>Georgia Medicaid will not reimburse for store and forward because these services do not include direct, in-person patient contact.</p> <p>However, telemedicine handbook indicates that cardiography, echocardiography, ultrasounds and x-rays are services that can be performed via telemedicine (which is defined as occurring in real-time).</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 4 & p. 8, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Email/Phone/FAX	
<p>No reimbursement for FAX. No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for email.</p> <p><i>Source: Official Code of GA Annotated Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>	<p>No reimbursement for FAX. No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for email.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 8, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Online Prescribing	
<p>Physicians are prohibited from prescribing controlled substances or dangerous drugs based solely on an electronic consult.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Rules & Regulations revised 360-3-.02 (2012).</i></p>	No reference found.
Consent	
No reference found in statute.	The referring provider must obtain prior written consent.

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	<p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 5, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Location	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>Eligible originating sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider offices; • Hospitals; • Critical Access Hospitals (CAH); • Rural Health Clinics (RHC); • Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC); • Skilled nursing facilities; • Community mental health centers; • GA public health clinics; • School-based clinics. <p>Eligible distant sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider offices; • Hospitals; • Critical Access Hospitals (CAH); • Rural Health Clinics (RHC); • Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC); • Skilled nursing facilities; • Community mental health centers; • GA public health clinics. <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 3, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p>FQHCs and RHCs cannot bill an originating site fee and distant site fee for telehealth services on the same encounter.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, CA Medicaid Rural Health Clinic Services Handbook, p. 48 and FQHC Handbook, (Jul. 2015) p. 42.</i></p>
Cross-State Licensure	
<p>Must be a Georgia licensed practitioner.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Admin. Code Sec. 360-3-.07</i></p>	<p>Providers must have a Georgia license.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 3, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Private Payers	
<p>Requires coverage of telemedicine services, subject to contract terms and conditions.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Rules & Regulations. Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Site/Transmission Fee	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>Rural Health Clinics and FQHCs can collect a telehealth origination site facility fee.</p> <p><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, CA Medicaid Rural Health</i></p>

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	<p data-bbox="906 281 1568 331"><i>Clinic Services Handbook, p. 48 (Jan. 2015) and FQHC Handbook, p. 42 (Jul. 2015).</i></p> <p data-bbox="906 354 1373 384">Originating sites can bill for a facility fee.</p> <p data-bbox="906 417 1565 506">The cost of telemedicine equipment and transmission is not a covered service (unless a technical component of an x-ray, ultrasound or electrocardiogram is performed).</p> <p data-bbox="906 537 1542 583"><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 3, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>
Miscellaneous	
	<p data-bbox="906 659 1247 688">Other Non-Covered Services:</p> <ul data-bbox="954 693 1495 842" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="954 693 1495 810">• Services rendered via web cam or internet based technologies that are not part of a secured network and do not meet HIPAA encryption compliance <li data-bbox="954 814 1325 842">• Video cell phone interaction <p data-bbox="906 873 1542 919"><i>Source: GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Handbook, p. 3, (Oct. 2014). (Accessed Jul. 2015).</i></p>

Comments: Patients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (known as dual eligibles), will receive mental health care through Medicare, with Medicaid the payer of last resort. Though not available in all areas of the state, Medicare-funded mental health services are currently provided to nursing home residents via telemedicine, face-to-face visits by providers in the nursing home, and nursing home resident visits to psychiatric/mental health clinics or offices, for those individuals able to travel.

GA Dept. of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance, Part II Policies and Procedures for Nursing Facilities, p. 202 (Jul. 1, 2015).

New Regulations Passed

- GA Composite Medical Board (*Source: GA Admin. Code Sec. 360-3-.07*)