

Washington

Medicaid Program: Washington Medicaid

Medicaid Program Administrator: Washington State Health Care Authority

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STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p><u>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</u> “Telemedicine means the delivery of health care services through the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. For purposes of this section only, ‘telemedicine’ does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email.”</p> <p><i>Source: WA Senate Bill 5175 (2015). (Will be incorporated into Revised Code of WA Sec. 41.05, 48.43, 74.09, & 70.41.020).</i></p> <p>“Telemedicine means the use of tele-monitoring to enhance the delivery of certain home health skilled nursing services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection of clinical data and the transmission of such data between a patient at a distant location and the home health provider through electronic processing technologies. Objective clinical data that may be transmitted includes, but is not limited to, weight, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, blood glucose, and pulse oximetry; • The provision of certain education related to health care services using audio, video, or data communication instead of a face-to-face visit.” <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-551-2010.</i></p> <p>“Telehealth means providing physical therapy via electronic communication where the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant and the patient are not at the same physical location.”</p> <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 246-915-187.</i></p> <p><u>Emergency Rule (Expires 4/22/15)</u></p>	<p>“Telemedicine is when a health care practitioner uses interactive real-time audio and video telecommunications to deliver covered services that are within his or her scope of practice to a client at a site other than the site where the provider is located.”</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 63 (Jul. 1, 2015).</i></p>

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<p>Telemedicine is when a health care practitioner uses HIPAA-compliant, interactive, real-time audio and video telecommunications (including web-based applications) to deliver covered services that are within his or her scope of practice to a client at a site other than the site where the provider is located. Using telemedicine enables the health care practitioner and the client to interact in real-time communication as if they were having a face-to-face session. Telemedicine allows clients, particularly those in medically underserved areas of the state, improved access to essential health care services that may not otherwise be available without traveling long distances.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-531-1730.</i></p>	
Live Video Reimbursement	
<p>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2017) Insurers (including employee health plans and Medicaid Managed Care) must reimburse for live video, with some limitations.</p> <p><i>(See private payer section)</i></p> <p><i>Source: WA Senate Bill 5175 (2015). (Will be incorporated into Revised Code of WA Sec. 41.05, 48.43, & 74.09).</i></p> <p>Telemedicine is covered by the Department.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-531-0100.</i></p>	<p>Yes, for patients with fee-for-service coverage.</p> <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations; • Office or other outpatient visits; • Psychiatric intake and assessment; • Individual psychotherapy; • Visit for drug monitoring <p>Eligible Providers at the Distant Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physicians (including Psychiatrists); and • Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners <p>Patients must be present and participate in the visit.</p> <p>For patients with managed care plan coverage, telehealth services will not be reimbursed separately. All services must be arranged and provided by primary care providers. It is not mandatory that the plan pay for telehealth services.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 64-65 (Jul. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
<p>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2017) Insurers (including employee health plans and Medicaid Managed Care) must reimburse for store-and forward, with some limitations.</p> <p><i>(See private payer section)</i></p> <p>Store and forward reimbursement is available only for</p>	<p>No reference found.</p>

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<p>covered services specified in the negotiated agreement between the health plan and health care provider.</p> <p>If the services are provided via store and forward, there must be an associated office visit between the patient and referring health care provider.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Senate Bill 5175 (2015). (Will be incorporated into Revised Code of WA Sec. 41.05, 48.43, & 74.09).</i></p>	
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
<p>(see Medicaid column)</p>	<p>The Medicaid agency covers the delivery of home health services through telemedicine.</p> <p>Services are provided for clients who have been diagnosed with an unstable condition, and who may be at risk for hospitalization or a more costly level of care.</p> <p>Coverage is limited to one telemedicine interaction, per patient, per day, based on the ordering licensed practitioner's care plan.</p> <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and monitoring of clinical data including, but not limited to, vital signs, pain levels and other biometric measures specified in the plan of care; • Assessment of response to previous changes in the plan of care; • Detection of condition changes based on the telemedicine encounter that may indicate the need for a change in the plan of care. • Implementation of a management plan <p>Must be provided by a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse.</p> <p>The Medicaid agency does not require prior authorization for the delivery of home health services through telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Home Health Svcs. (Acute Care Svcs.), p. 22 (Jul. 1, 2014).</i></p>
Email/Phone/FAX	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>No reimbursement for email. No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for FAX.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 63(Jul. 1, 2015).</i></p>

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Online Prescribing	
<p>The WA Medical Quality Assurance Commission has issued guidelines on the use of the Internet in medical practices. A guideline does not have the force of law, but can be considered by the Commission to be the standard of practice in the state.</p> <p>A documented patient evaluation, including history and physical evaluation adequate to establish diagnoses and identify underlying conditions and/or contra-indications to the treatment recommended/provided, must be obtained prior to providing treatment, including issuing prescriptions, electronically or otherwise.</p> <p>Treatment and consultation recommendations made in an online setting, including issuing a prescription via electronic means, will be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in in-person settings.</p> <p>Treatment, including issuing a prescription, based solely on an online questionnaire or consultation does not constitute an acceptable standard of care.</p> <p><i>Source: Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission, Guidelines for Appropriate Use of the Internet in Medical Practice,</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Consent	
<p>No reference found.</p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Location	
<u>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</u>	
<p><i>Eligible Originating Sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital; • Rural health clinic; • Federally qualified health center; • Physician’s or other health care provider’s office; • Community mental health center; • Skilled nursing facility; or • Renal dialysis center <p>Originating sites may not distinguish between rural and urban originating sites.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Senate Bill 5175 (2015). (Will be incorporated into Revised Code of WA Sec. 41.05, 48.43, & 74.09).</i></p>	<p>Eligible originating sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioner offices; • Hospitals; • Critical Access Hospitals; • Rural Health Clinics; • Federally Qualified Health Centers. <p>Originating site provider responsible for determining and documenting that telemedicine is medically necessary.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional svcs., p. 64 (Jul. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Cross-State Licensing	
<p>Out-of-state, licensed practitioners may deliver telemedicine or telehealth services, as long as they do not open an office or appoint a place of meeting patients</p>	<p>No reference found.</p>

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<p>or receive calls within the state.</p> <p><i>Source: Revised Code of WA Sec. 18.71.030 (2012).</i></p>	
Private Payers	
<p><u>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</u> Insurers (including employee health plans and Medicaid Managed Care) must reimburse a provider for services delivered through telemedicine or store and forward if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan provides coverage when provided in-person; • The health care service is medically necessary; and • The health care service is a service recognized as an essential health benefit under section 1302(b) of the federal patient protection and affordable care act. <p><i>Source: WA Senate Bill 5175 (2015). (Will be incorporated into Revised Code of WA Sec. 41.05, 48.43, & 74.09).</i></p>	<p>No reference found.</p>
Site/Transmission Fee	
<p><u>Recently Passed Legislation (Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</u> An originating site can charge a facility fee, but it is subject to a negotiated agreement between the originating site and the health plan.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Senate Bill 5175 (2015). (Will be incorporated into Revised Code of WA Sec. 41.05, 48.43, & 74.09).</i></p>	<p>Facility fees for originating sites, except inpatient hospitals.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 64 (Jul. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Miscellaneous	
<p><u>Physical Therapy</u> Licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants may provide physical therapy via telehealth. The clinical record must indicate that the physical therapy occurred via telehealth.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 246-915-187.</i></p>	

Comment: WA State requires a provider directory to be updated monthly. For each health plan, the associated provider directory must include information about available telemedicine services and specifically described for each provider.

Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 284-43-204.