

Alaska

Medicaid Program: Alaska Medicaid

Program Administrator: Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance

Regional Telehealth Resource Center:
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Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p>“Telemedicine means the practice of health care delivery, evaluation, diagnosis, consultation, or treatment, using the transfer of medical data through audio, video, or data communications that are engaged in over two or more locations between providers who are physically separated from the patient or from each other.”</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 12.449 (2012).</i></p>	<p>“Alaska Medicaid will pay for telemedicine services delivered in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive method: Provider and patient interact in ‘real time’ using video/camera and/or dedicated audio conference equipment. • Store-and-forward method: The provider sends digital images, sounds, or previously recorded video to a consulting provider at a different location. The consulting provider reviews the information and reports back his or her analysis. • Self-monitoring method: The patient is monitored in his or her home via a telemedicine application, with the provider indirectly involved from another location.” <p><i>Source: State of AK Dept. of Health and Social Svcs., Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manuals for Community Behavioral Health Services, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment, Hospice Care, Inpatient Psychiatric Services, Independent Laboratory Services, Appendices. (Accessed Apr. 2018).</i></p> <p>Telemedicine is identical to a "traditional" health-care visit except it uses a different "mode of delivery;" with telemedicine, the healthcare provider and the patient are not in the same physical location. Instead, providers use telemedicine applications, such as video, audio, and/or digitized image transmissions, to link the patient and the provider.</p> <p>There are two primary telemedicine methods, or applications: Interactive and store-and-forward. With the interactive method, video/camera equipment and/or audio equipment is used to hold a "real-time" (live) consultation between a patient and a healthcare provider at a different location. The store-and-forward method, however, requires healthcare providers to send digital images, sounds, or previously recorded video to another provider at a different location. This "consulting"</p>

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	<p>provider then reviews the information and reports his or her findings to the provider who sent the information.</p> <p><i>Source: State of AK Dept. of Health and Social Svcs., Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manuals for Tribal Facility Services. Updated 6/4/13. (Accessed Apr. 2018).</i></p>
Live Video Reimbursement	
<p>(See Medicaid column)</p>	<p>Alaska's Medicaid program will reimburse for services "provided through the use of camera, video, or dedicated audio conference equipment on a real-time basis"</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 110.625(a) (2012).</i></p> <p>Alaska Medicaid will pay for a covered medical service furnished through telemedicine application if the service is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered under traditional, non-telemedicine methods; • Provided by a treating, consulting, presenting or referring provider; • Appropriate for provision via telemedicine <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial or one follow-up office visit; • Consultation made to confirm diagnosis • A diagnostic, therapeutic or interpretive service • Psychiatric or substance abuse assessments; • Individual psychotherapy or pharmacological management services. <p><i>Source: AK Dept of Health and Social Svcs., AK Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manuals, Section1: Physician, Advance Nurse Practitioner, MHPC, Therapies, Audiology, School Based Services, Physician Assistant, RBRBS, SBS, Tribal, Vision: Services, Policies and Procedures, (Accessed Apr. 2018) & AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 110.630.</i></p> <p>No reimbursement for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home and community-based waiver services; • Pharmacy; • Durable medical equipment; • Transportation; • Accommodation services; • End-stage renal disease; • Direct-entry midwife; • Private duty nursing; • Personal care assistants; • Visual care, dispensing or optician services; • Technological equipment and systems associated with telemedicine application. <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 110.635 (2012) & AK Dept of Health and Social Svcs., AK Alaska Medical Assistance Provider</i></p>

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	<p><i>Billing Manual, Section1: Physician, Advance Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant: Services, Policies and Procedures, (Accessed Apr. 2018)</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
<p>(See Medicaid column)</p>	<p>Alaska Medicaid will reimburse for services delivered through store-and-forward.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Dept. of Health and Social Svcs., Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manual, Section1: Physician, Advance Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant: Services, Policies and Procedures, (Accessed Apr. 2018)</i></p> <p>To be eligible for payment under store-and-forward the service must be “provided through the transference of digital images, sounds, or previously recorded video from one location to another to allow a consulting provider to obtain information, analyze it, and report back to the referring provider.”</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 110.625(a) (2012).</i></p>
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
<p>(See Medicaid column)</p>	<p>Alaska Medicaid will reimburse for services delivered through self-monitoring.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Dept of Health and Social Svcs., Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manual, Section1: Physician, Advance Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant: Services, Policies and Procedures, (Accessed Apr. 2018)</i></p> <p>To be eligible for payment under self-monitoring or testing, “the services must be provided by a telemedicine application based in the recipient’s home, with the provider only indirectly involved in the provision of the service.”</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 110.625(a) (2012).</i></p>
Email/Phone/FAX	
<p>(see Medicaid column)</p>	<p>No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for FAX.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Dept. of Health and Social Svcs., Alaska Medical Assistance Provider Billing Manual, Section1: Physician, Advance Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant: Services, Policies and Procedures, (accessed Apr. 2018)</i></p> <p>Reimbursement for phone, only if part of a dedicated audio conference system. No reimbursement for FAX.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin Code, Title 7, 110.625 (2012).</i></p>
Online Prescribing	
<p>The guiding principles for telemedicine practice in the American Medical Association (AMA), Report 7 of the Council on Medical Service (A-14), Coverage of and Payment for Telemedicine, dated 2014, and the</p>	<p>No reference found.</p>

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<p>Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine, dated April 2014, are adopted by reference as the standards of practice when providing treatment, rendering a diagnosis, prescribing, dispensing, or administering a prescription or controlled substance without first conducting an in-person physical examination.</p> <p><i>Source: AK 12 AAC 40.943</i></p> <p>A physician is not subject to disciplinary sanctions for rendering a diagnosis, treatment or prescribing a prescription drug (except a controlled substance) without a physical examination if the physician or another health care provider is available for follow up care and the physician requests that the person consent to sending a copy of all records of the encounter to the person's primary care provider.</p> <p>The AK Medical Board is required to adopt regulations that establish guidelines for a physician who is rendering a diagnosis, treatment or prescribing without conducting a physical exam.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Statute, Sec. 08.64.364 (SB 74 – 2016).</i></p> <p>Physicians are prohibited from prescribing medications based solely on a patient-supplied history received by telephone, FAX, or electronic format.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 12, Sec. 40.967.</i></p>	
Consent	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Location	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Cross-State Licensing	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Private Payers	
<p>Private payers required to provide coverage for mental health benefits provided through telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Statute, Sec. 21.54.102 (HB 234 – 2016).</i></p>	No reference found.
Site/Transmission Fee	
No reference found.	The department will pay only for professional services for a telemedicine application of service. The department will not pay for the use of technological equipment and systems associated with a telemedicine application to render the service.

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	<p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 110.635(b) (2012).</i></p> <p><u>Community Behavioral Health Services</u> The department will pay a community behavioral health services provider for facilitation of a telemedicine session if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Telemedicine communication equipment is supplied by the provider; • The electronic connection used by the treating provider and the recipient are established and maintained by the provider; • The provider remains available during the telemedicine session to reestablish failed connection before the intended end of the telemedicine session; and • The provider documents in the recipient's clinical record a note summarizing the facilitation of each telemedicine session (although the facilitating provider is not required to document a clinical problem or treatment goal as these are to be documented by the treating provider). <p>This service may be rendered to the following eligible recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child or adult experiencing a substance use disorder or emotional disturbance • Adult experiencing a serious mental illness <p><i>Source: AK Admin. Code, Title 7, 135.290.</i></p>
Miscellaneous	
<p>The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development is required to adopt regulations for establishing and maintaining a registry of businesses performing telemedicine in the state.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Statute, Sec. 44.33.381. (SB 74 – 2016).</i></p> <p>See business registry regulations for more details.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Admin Code. Sec. 600, Article 5.</i></p>	<p>Medically necessary provider to provider office consultations via telemedicine may only be reimbursed if the consulting provider is of a different specialty than the requesting provider.</p> <p><i>Source: AK Department of Health and Social Svcs, Medicaid Policy Clarification (Mar. 30, 2017), (Accessed Apr. 2018).</i></p>

Comments: Alaska and Hawaii are the only two states with Medicare coverage of store and forward services.

Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations

- Medical Board (*AK 12 AAC 40.943*)