

Alabama

Medicaid Program: Alabama Medicaid

Program Administrator: Alabama Medicaid Agency

Regional Telehealth Resource Center: Southeast Telehealth Resource Center

Covers the States of: Alabama, Florida, Georgia & South Carolina

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Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Summary

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for live video under some circumstances. They make no reference to store-and-forward reimbursement, but the program reimburses for In-Home Monitoring through the Patient's 1st program for diabetes and Chronic Heart failure, although it's not considered to fall under the telemedicine program.

For all telemedicine services, an appropriately trained staff member or employee familiar with the patient or the treatment plan must be immediately available in-person to the patient.

Source: *AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018) & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14.*

Effective for dates of service 1/16/2012 and thereafter, all physicians with an Alabama license, enrolled as a provider with the Alabama Medicaid Agency, regardless of location, are eligible to participate in the Telemedicine Program to provide medically necessary telemedicine services to Alabama Medicaid eligible recipients. In order to participate in the telemedicine program:

- Physicians must be enrolled with Alabama Medicaid with a specialty type of 931 (Telemedicine Service)
- Physician must submit the telemedicine Service Agreement/Certification form
- Physician must obtain prior consent from the recipient before services are rendered. This will count as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 annual physician office visits currently allowed.

Source: *AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018).*

Definitions

There is no explicit definition of "telemedicine" given in state Medicaid policy. However, the provider manual states, "Services must be administered via an interactive audio and video telecommunications system which permits two-way communication between the distant site physician and the origination site where the recipient is located (this does not include a telephone conversation, electronic mail message, or facsimile transmission between the physician, recipient, or a consultation between two physicians)."

Source: *AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018).*

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Live Video

Policy

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for live video for certain services.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018) & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14.

Eligible Services / Specialties

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for the following services:

- Consults;
- Office or other outpatient visits;
- Individual psychotherapy;
- Psychiatric diagnostic services;
- Neurobehavioral status exams.

However, for some specialties, special conditions or circumstances must be present for reimbursement to occur.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018) & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14.

Eligible Providers

No reference found.

Eligible Sites

For rehabilitative services, the originating site must be:

- Physician's office;
- Hospital;
- Critical Access Hospital;
- Rural Health Clinic;
- Federally Qualified Health Center;
- Community mental health center (to include co-located sites with partnering agencies);
- Public health department.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-12), (Aug. 2018).

Geographic Limits

For rehabilitative services, the originating site must be located in Alabama. The distant site may be located outside of Alabama as long as the physician has an Alabama license and is enrolled as an Alabama Medicaid provider.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-12), (Aug. 2018).

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

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| Live Video | Facility/Transmission Fee | <p>No reimbursement for originating site or transmission fees.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018) & AL Admin Code r. 560-X-6-.14.</p> |
| | Policy | No reference found. |
| Store-and-Forward | Eligible Services/Specialties | No reference found. |
| | Geographic Limits | No reference found. |
| | Transmission Fee | No reference found. |

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

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| Remote Patient Monitoring | Policy | <p>Alabama Medicaid will reimburse remote patient monitoring through the In Home Monitoring Program. The program is a joint effort between the Agency, the University of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Must be referred to the Patient's 1st program by any source including a physician, Patient 1st care coordinator, patient care network, patient or caregiver, the Health Department, hospitals, home health agencies or community based organizations.</p> <p>Source: <i>AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), (Aug. 2018).</i></p> |
| | Conditions | <p>Patients with the following medical conditions may register for the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • Congestive Heart Failure <p>Source: <i>AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), (Aug. 2018).</i></p> |
| | Provider Limitations | <p>Data is transmitted to an ADPH nurse care manager.</p> |
| | Other Restrictions | <p>The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Nurse Care Manager evaluates the patient, provides any needed equipment such as a scale, glucometer, blood pressure cuff and phone with a speaker.</p> <p>Data transmission occurs through a secure telephone call.</p> <p>Source: <i>AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), (Aug. 2018).</i></p> |
| Email / Phone / Fax | <p>No reimbursement for email. No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for FAX.</p> <p>Source: <i>AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018).</i></p> | |
| Consent | <p>A written informed consent is required prior to an initial telemedicine service.</p> <p>Source: <i>AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018).</i></p> | |

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| Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement | Out of State Providers | <p>Providers must have an Alabama license.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (Aug. 2018).</p> | |
| | Miscellaneous | No reference found. | |
| Private Payer Laws | Definitions | No reference found. | |
| | Requirements | No reference found. | |
| | Parity | Service Parity | No reference found. |
| | | Payment Parity | No reference found. |

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| Definitions | <p>No reference found.</p> |
| Consent | <p>No reference found.</p> |
| Online Prescribing | <p>The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners holds the position that, when prescribing medications to an individual, the prescriber, when possible, should personally examine the patient. Prescribing medications for patients the physician has not personally examined may be suitable for certain circumstances, including telemedicine.</p> <p>Licenses are expected to adhere to federal and state statute regarding prescribing of controlled substances.</p> <p>Source: <i>AL Admin. Code. r. 540-X-9-.11.</i></p> |
| Cross-State Licensing | <p>“A special purpose license allowing practitioners licensed in other states to practice across state lines may be issued.”</p> <p>Source: <i>Code of AL Sec. 34-24-502 – 507.</i></p> <p>AL passed legislation to be a part of the interstate licensing compact.</p> <p>Source: <i>AL Act 2015-197 (2015).</i></p> |
| Miscellaneous | <p>Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AL Board of Optometrists (Source: <i>AL Admin Code 630-X-13-.02</i>) • AL Board of Nursing (Source: <i>AL Admin Code 610-X-6-.16</i>). |

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