

# Georgia

**Medicaid Program:** Georgia Medicaid

**Program Administrator:** Georgia Dept. of Community Health

**Regional Telehealth Resource Center:** Southeast Telehealth Resource Center

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

[www.setrc.us](http://www.setrc.us)

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement	Summary	<p>Georgia Medicaid reimburses for live video under some circumstances. Store-and-forward is not reimbursable as interactive telecommunications is a condition of payment, however GA Medicaid will reimburse for the technical component of x-rays, ultrasounds, etc. as well as store-and-forward telerdentistry. There is no reference to remote patient monitoring.</p>
	Definitions	<p>Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchange from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patient's 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 communications 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 telecommunications 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><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 4, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p>
	Live Video Policy	<p>Georgia Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth is specific to clinical services rendered via telemedicine. See each program manual for associated telemedicine guidelines.</p>

The service must be medically necessary and the procedure individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of an illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the member's needs.

Eligible services:

- Office visits;
- Pharmacologic management;
- Limited office psychiatric services;
- Limited prevention intervention services;
- Limited radiological services;
- A limited number of other physician fee schedule services.

See telemedicine manual for list of eligible telemedicine codes.

Non-Covered Services:

1. Telephone conversations.
2. Electronic mail messages.
3. Facsimile.
4. Services rendered via a webcam or internet based technologies (i.e., Skype, Tango, etc.) that are not part of a secured network and do not meet HIPAA encryption compliance.
5. Video cell phone interactions.
6. The cost of telemedicine equipment and transmission.
7. Store-and-forward transactions
8. Failed or unsuccessful transmissions.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 4 & 7, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).

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).

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.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance, Part II Policies and Procedures for Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services, p. 23 & 29 (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018) & GA Dept. of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance, Part II Policies and Procedures for Nursing Facility Services, p. H-7 (p. 161). (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).

Eligible distant practitioners:

- Physicians
- Nurse practitioner
- Physician assistant
- Nurse-midwives
- Clinical nurse specialists
- Certified registered nurse anesthetists
- Dentists and dental hygienists
- Community mental health centers;
- Community behavioral health providers;
- Community mental health centers;
- Clinical psychologists (CPs) and clinical social workers (CSWs);
- Speech language pathologists;
- Registered dietitians or nutrition professionals.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 5, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).

Eligible Providers

FQHCs and RHCs are authorized to serve as a distant site for telehealth services, and may bill the cost of the visit.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, Policies and Procedures for Federally Qualified Health Center Services and Rural Health Clinic Services, p. 22, (Aug. 2018), (Accessed Sep. 2018).

Eligible Sites

Eligible originating sites:

- Provider offices;
- Hospitals;
- Rural Health Clinics (RHC);
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC);
- Hospital based or CAH based renal Dialysis Centers;
- Skilled nursing facilities;
- Local Education Authorities and School Based Clinics;
- County Boards of Health;
- Emergency Medical Services Ambulances; and
- Pharmacies

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 5, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).

Local Education Agencies are allowed to enroll in the Health Check Program to serve as telehealth originating sites only.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, Children's Intervention School Services (CISS). VI-4 p.9. (Jul. 2018). & GA Dept. of Community Health, Health Check EPSDT. (Jul. 2018). X-6. p. 68. (Accessed Sep. 2018).

Geographic Limits

No reference found.

Facility/Transmission Fee

Rural Health Clinics, FQHCs, and LEAs enrolled as Health Check providers can collect a telehealth originating site facility fee.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, Policies and Procedures for Federally Qualified Health Services and Rural Health Clinic Services, p. 22, (Jul. 2018). & GA Dept. of Community Health, Health Check EPSDT. (Jul. 2018). X-5. p.68. (Accessed Sep. 2018).

FQHCs and RHCs cannot bill an originating site fee and distant site fee for telehealth services on the same encounter.

**Source:** GA Dept. of Community Health, Policies and Procedures for Federally Qualified Health Center Services and Rural Health Clinic Services, p. 22, (Aug. 2018), (Accessed Sep. 2018).

# Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Store-and-Forward	Policy	Georgia Medicaid will not reimburse for store-and-forward because an interactive telecommunication system is a condition of payment. The exception is that Georgia Medicaid allows for reimbursement of teledentistry.
	Eligible Services/Specialties	<p>Reimbursement can be made for technical component of store-and-forward applications such as an MRI, X-rays or ultrasounds. However, no other reimbursement can be made.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 6, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p> <p>Georgia Medicaid allows for reimbursement of store-and-forward teledentistry.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Dental Services Handbook. (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p>
	Geographic Limits	No reference found.
	Transmission Fee	<p>The originating site fee (billed as D9996) associated with a real time teledentistry exam is supposed to cover the asynchronous sending of information by a dental hygienist to a dentist for review.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Dental Services Handbook. (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p>
Remote Patient Monitoring	Policy	No reference found.
	Conditions	No reference found.

## Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Remote Patient Monitoring	Provider Limitations	No reference found.
	Other Restrictions	No reference found.
Email / Phone / Fax	<p>No reimbursement for FAX.          No reimbursement for telephone.          No reimbursement for email.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 7, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p>	
Consent	<p>The referring provider must obtain prior written consent.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 6, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p>	
Out of State Providers	<p>Providers must have a Georgia license.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> GA Dept. of Community Health, GA Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance Handbook, p. 6, (Jul. 2018). (Accessed Sep. 2018).</p>	
Miscellaneous	No reference found.	

Private Payer Laws	Definitions	<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><b>Source:</b> <i>Official Code of GA Annotated Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>	
	Requirements	<p>Requires payment of telemedicine for services that are covered under the plan, subject to contract terms and conditions.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>Official Code of GA Annotated Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>	
	Parity	Service Parity	<p>Services must be appropriately provided through telemedicine and in accordance with generally accepted health care practices and standards prevailing in the applicable professional community at the time the services were provided. It is also subject to all the terms and conditions of the applicable health benefit plan.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>Official Code of GA Annotated Sec. 33-24-56.4 (2012).</i></p>
		Payment Parity	<p>No explicit payment parity.</p>
Professional Regulation/Health & Safety	Definitions	<p><b>Applies to: Interactive Physical Therapy Services</b></p> <p>“Telehealth” is the use of electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health related information and health care services including, but not limited to physical therapy related information and services, over large and small distances. Telehealth encompasses a variety of health care and health promotion activities including, but not limited to, education, advice, reminders, interventions, and monitoring of interventions.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>GA Rules &amp; Regulations. Sec. 490-9-.06.</i></p>	
	Consent	<p>No reference found.</p>	

Professional Regulation/Health & Safety

Online Prescribing

Physicians are prohibited from prescribing controlled substances or dangerous drugs based solely on an electronic consult.

**Source:** *GA Rules & Regulations revised 360-3-.02 (2012).*

Cross-State Licensing

Must be a Georgia licensed practitioner.

**Source:** *GA Admin. Code Sec. 360-3-.07.*

Member of Nurse Licensure Compact.

**Source:** *Nurse Licensure Compact. Current NLC States and Status. (Accessed Sept. 2018).*

Miscellaneous

Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations

- GA Composite Medical Board (**Source:** *GA Admin. Code Sec. 360-3-.07*).
- GA Board of Physical Therapy (**Source:** *GA Admin. Code Sec. 490-9-.06*).

