

# Louisiana

**Medicaid Program:** Louisiana Medicaid

**Program Administrator:** Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals

**Regional Telehealth Resource Center:** TexLa Telehealth Resource Center

**Covers the States of:** Texas & Louisiana

[www.texlatrc.org](http://www.texlatrc.org)

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement	Summary	<p>Live video telemedicine is covered for distant site providers enrolled in Louisiana Medicaid. There is no reimbursement for the originating site. Activity and sensor monitoring, health status monitoring and medication dispensing and monitoring are forms of remote patient monitoring that are covered by Louisiana Medicaid. There is no reference to store-and-forward.</p>	
	Definitions	<p>“Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanges from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a recipient’s health. Electronic communication means the use of interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real time interactive communication between the patient at the originating site, and the physician or practitioner at the distant site.”</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Professional Svcs. Provider Manual, Chapter Five of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 168 (As revised on Apr. 13, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>	
	Live Video	Policy	<p>Louisiana Medicaid reimburses the distant site for services provided via telemedicine.</p> <p>Covered services must be identified on claims submissions by appending the modifier “GT”.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Professional Svcs. Provider Manual, Chapter Five of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 168 (As revised on Apr. 13, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
		Eligible Services / Specialties	<p>Louisiana Medicaid reimburses for “services provided via an interactive audio and video telecommunications system.”</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Register, Volume 31, 2032 (2012).</p>

# Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Live Video	Eligible Providers	<p>The distant site provider must be enrolled as a Louisiana Medicaid provider to receive reimbursement for covered services.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Professional Svcs. Provider Manual, Chapter Five of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 168 (As revised on Apr. 13, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
	Eligible Sites	No reference found.
	Geographic Limits	No reference found.
	Facility/Transmission Fee	<p>Louisiana Medicaid only reimburses the distant site provider.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Professional Svcs. Provider Manual, Chapter Five of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 168 (As revised on Apr. 13, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
Store-and-Forward	Policy	<p>Louisiana Medicaid will not provide reimbursement for store-and-forward based upon the definition of “telemedicine” which describes telemedicine as including “audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real time interactive communication” therefore excluding store-and-forward.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Professional Svcs. Provider Manual, Chapter Five of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 168 (As revised on Apr. 13, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
	Eligible Services/Specialties	No reference found.

Store-and-Forward	Geographic Limits	No reference found.
	Transmission Fee	No reference found.
Remote Patient Monitoring	Policy	<p>Under the Community Choices Waiver, Louisiana Medicaid will reimburse an installation fee and a monthly maintenance fee for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TeleCare Activity and Sensor Monitoring,</li> <li>• Health status monitoring, and</li> <li>• Medication dispensing and monitoring.</li> </ul> <p>Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is also reimbursed under Community Choices Waiver, which responds to system when emergency services are needed by the recipient.</p> <p><b>Activity and Sensor Monitoring</b> At a minimum, the system must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the home's points of egress and entrance;</li> <li>• Detect falls;</li> <li>• Detect movement or lack of movement;</li> <li>• Detect whether doors are opened or closed; and</li> <li>• Provide a push button emergency alert system.</li> </ul> <p>Could be beneficial for patient with chronic conditions for monitoring weight, oxygen saturation measurements and vital signs.</p> <p><b>Health Status Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Medication Dispensing and Monitoring</b> Compliance with medication therapy. Provider or caregiver is notified when there are missed doses. A remote monitoring system that is pre-programmed to dispense and monitor the recipient's missed doses.</p> <p><b>Standards</b> Providers of assistive devices and medical equipment must be a licensed home health agency.</p> <p>Certain standards apply for the medical equipment and supplies used (see manual).</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Community Choices Waiver Provider Manual, Chapter Seven of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 29-30 (as revised on Mar. 29, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
	Conditions	<p>diabetes or pulmonary disease. Health status monitoring: May be beneficial to individuals with congestive heart failure,</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Community Choices Waiver Provider Manual, Chapter Seven of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 29-30 (as revised on Mar. 29, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p> <p>Services must be based on verified need.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Community Choices Waiver Provider Manual, Chapter Seven of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 29-30 (as revised on Mar. 29, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>

# Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Remote Patient Monitoring	Provider Limitations	<p>Providers must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be UL listed/certified or have 501(k) clearance;</li> <li>• Be web-based;</li> <li>• Be compliant with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);</li> <li>• Have recipient specific reporting capabilities for tracking and trending;</li> <li>• Have a professional call center for technical support based in the United States; and</li> <li>• Have on-going provision of web-based data collection for each recipient, as appropriate. This includes response to recipient self-testing, manufacturer’s specific testing, self-auditing and quality control.</li> </ul> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Community Choices Waiver Provider Manual, Chapter Seven of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 31-32 (as revised on Mar. 29, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
	Other Restrictions	<p><b>Limitations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services must be pre-approved.</li> <li>• Services must be based on verified need.</li> <li>• Benefit must be determined by an independent assessment (done by appropriate professional who has no fiduciary relationship with the manufacturer, supplier or vendor) on any item that costs over \$500.</li> <li>• All items must reduce reliance on other Medicaid state plan or waiver services.</li> <li>• All items must meet applicable standards of manufacture, design and installation.</li> <li>• The items must be on the Plan of Care developed by the support coordinator.</li> </ul> <p>A recipient is not able to receive simultaneously Telecare Activity and Sensor Monitoring services and traditional PERS services. Where applicable, recipients must use Medicaid State Plan, Medicare or other available payers first.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Community Choices Waiver Provider Manual, Chapter Seven of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 32-33 (as revised on Mar. 29, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</p>
Email / Phone / Fax		No reference found.
Consent		No reference found.

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement	Out of State Providers	No reference found.	
	Miscellaneous	<p>The recipients record at both the originating and distant site should reflect that the service was provided using telemedicine.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals, <i>Professional Svcs. Provider Manual, Chapter Five of the Medicaid Svcs. Manual, p. 168 (As revised on Apr. 13, 2018). (Accessed Sept. 2018).</i></p>	
Private Payer Laws	Definitions	No reference found.	
	Requirements	<p>Reimbursement must be made to the originating site physician if he/she is physically present during the exam and interact with the distant-site physician.</p> <p>Originating-site physician fees shall be at least 75 percent of the normal fee for an intermediate office visit.</p> <p>No reference found for distant-site physician reimbursement.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Revised Statutes 22:1821 (2012).</p>	
	Parity	Service Parity	No reference found.
		Payment Parity	<p>Originating-site physician fees shall be at least 75 percent of the normal fee for an intermediate office visit.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> LA Revised Statutes 22:1821 (2012).</p>

**Medical Board**

“Telemedicine is the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and transfer of medical data using interactive telecommunication technology that enables a health care practitioner and a patient at two locations separated by distance to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously. Neither a telephone conversation nor an electronic mail message between a health care practitioner and patient, or a true consultation as may be defined by rules promulgated by the board pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, constitutes telemedicine.”

**Source:** *LA Revised Statutes 37:1262.*

**Public Health & Safety**

Telehealth means a mode of delivering healthcare services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management and self-management of patients at a distance from healthcare providers. Telehealth allows services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store-and-forward transfers.

**Source:** *LA Revised Statutes HB 1 Title 40 Sec. 1223.3 & Title 46, Part LXXV, Ch. 1, Sec. 103 (Speech Language Pathology/Audiology).*

**Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology**

Telehealth is a mode of delivering audiology and speech-language pathology services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education care management, and self-management of clients at a distance from the audiologist or speech-language pathologist provider services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.

**Source:** *Title 46, Part LXXV, Ch. 1, Sec. 103 (Speech Language Pathology/Audiology).*

**Physician’s Use of Telemedicine in Practice**

Telemedicine - the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and transfer of medical data by a physician using interactive telecommunication technology that enables a physician and a patient at two locations separated by distance to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously. Neither an electronic mail message between a physician and a patient, or a true consultation constitutes telemedicine for the purposes of this Part. A physician practicing by telemedicine may utilize interactive audio without the requirement of video if, after access and review of the patient’s medical records, the physician determines that he or she is able to meet the same standard of care as if the healthcare services were provided in-person.

**Source:** *LA Admin. Code 46:XLV.75.*

Physicians must inform telemedicine patients of the relationship between the physician and patient, and the role of any other health care provider with respect to management of the patient. The patient may decline to receive telemedicine services and withdraw from such care at any time.

**Source:** *LA Admin. Code 46:XLV.7511 (2012).*

Louisiana law requires that a physician who uses telemedicine establish a proper physician-patient relationship. Physicians must:

- Verify the identity of the patient;
- Conduct an appropriate exam;
- Establish a proper diagnosis;
- Discuss the diagnosis and risks and benefits of various treatment options;
- Ensure the availability of follow up care;
- Create and/or maintain a medical record.

**Source:** LA Admin. Code 46:XLV.7503 (2012).

Telemedicine, including the issuance of any prescription via electronic means, shall be held to the same prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical practice as those in traditional, face-to-face settings.

An online, electronic or written mail message, or a telephonic evaluation by questionnaire or otherwise, does not satisfy the standards of appropriate care.

To establish a physician-patient relationship an in-person visit is not required if the technology is sufficient to provide the physician the pertinent clinical information.

No physician shall authorize or order the prescription, dispensation or administration of any controlled substance unless; a. the physician has had at least one in-person visit with the patient within the past year; provided, however, the requirement for an in-person visit shall not apply to a physician who holds an unrestricted license to practice medicine in LA and who practices telemedicine upon any patient being treated at a healthcare facility that is required to be licensed pursuant to the laws of LA and which holds a current registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; b. the prescription is issued for a legitimate medical purpose; c. the prescription is in conformity with the standard of care applicable to an in-person visit; and d. the prescription is permitted by and in conformity with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

**Source:** LA Admin. Code 46:XLV.408, Ch. 7503-05 & 7513.

For physicians practicing telemedicine and treating a patient at a healthcare facility that is required to be licensed according to the laws of LA and holds a current registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration:

- Physician must use the same standard of care as in-person.
- Physician must be authorized to prescribe any controlled dangerous substance without necessity of conducting an appropriate in-person patient history or physical examination.
- Physician shall not be subject to any regulation prohibition or restriction on the use of telemedicine that is more restrictive than those that are otherwise applicable to their entire profession.

**Source:** LA Statute Sec. 37:1271.1 (HB 480 – 2016).

No physician practicing telemedicine can prescribe a controlled dangerous substance prior to conducting an appropriate in-person patient history or physical examination of the patient.

**Source:** LA Revised Statutes 37:1271(B)(3).

A telemedicine license may be issued to out-of-state physicians, as long as they hold a full and unrestricted license in another state or U.S. territory.

Out-of-state telemedicine providers cannot open an office, meet with patients or receive calls from patients within Louisiana.

**Source:** *LA Revised Statutes 37:1276.1 (2012).*

LA state agencies and professional boards can regulate the use of telehealth including licensing of out-of-state healthcare providers.

**Source:** *LA Revised Statutes 40:1223.4.*

A physician may practice in the state with a full license, or hold a telemedicine permit.

**Source:** *LA Admin. Code 46:XLV.7507.*

Member of Physical Therapy Compact.

**Source:** *SB 203 (2018). PT Compact. (Accessed Sept. 2018).*

Member of Nurse Licensure Compact.

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

### Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations

- Louisiana Medical Board (Title 46, Part XLV, Subpart 1, Subchapter C, Ch. 75)
- Speech Language Pathology and Audiology (Title 46, Part LXXV, Ch. 1, Sec. 130).

Louisiana has specific standards for its telemedicine physicians.

**Source:** *LA Statute Sec. 37:1271 & House Bill 1280 (2014).*

