

# 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

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

## Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

### Summary

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for live video under some circumstances. The Agency will not reimburse providers for origination site or transmission fees. 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 & 39-33), Jul. 2019 (Accessed Sept. 2019) & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-p. 14.

### 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), July 2019. (Accessed Sept. 2019).

### Live Video

#### Policy

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for live video for certain services.

**Source:** AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2019 (Accessed Sept. 2019) & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14.



Eligible Services / Specialties

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for the following services when billed with a GT modifier:

- 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), July 2019. (Accessed Sept. 2019). & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14.

Telehealth may also be used to deliver Nursing Assessment and Care and Rehabilitative services when certain conditions are met.

**Source:** AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-13 & 63), July 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Eligible Providers

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) July 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).

For Nursing Assessment and Care services for DMH Mental Illness, and DMH Substance Abuse the following providers are eligible:

- Licensed Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Certified Nursing Assistant

**Source:** AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-63), Jul. 2019, (Accessed: Sept. 2019).

Rehabilitative services that are delivered face to face can either be in person or via telemedicine/telehealth, as approved by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

**Source:** AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-1) (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Eligible Sites

For rehabilitative services, the originating site must be at:

- 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, (105-13), July 2019. (Accessed Sept. 2019).



## Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Live Video	Geographic Limits	<p>For rehabilitative services, 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.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-13), (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
	Facility/Transmission Fee	<p>No reimbursement for originating site or transmission fees.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17 &amp; 105-15), (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
Store-and-Forward	Policy	No reference found.
	Eligible Services/Specialties	No reference found.
	Geographic Limits	No reference found.



## Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Store-and-Forward	Transmission Fee	No reference found.
	Policy	<p>Alabama Medicaid will reimburse remote patient monitoring for specified conditions through the In-Home Monitoring Program. The program is a joint effort between the Agency, the University of South Alabama and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). May be referred to the 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. Orders for In Home Monitoring along with the specific parameters for daily monitoring must be obtained from the patient’s primary medical provider.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), July 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
Remote Patient Monitoring	Conditions	<p>Patients with the following medical conditions may register for the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetes</li> <li>• Congestive Heart Failure</li> </ul> <p><b>Source:</b> AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), July 2019. (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
	Provider Limitations	<p>In home monitoring patient data is transmitted to a web-based data collection and documentation system and monitored by ADPH Nurse Care Managers on a daily basis.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), Jul. 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).</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, automated phone system.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> AAL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (39-33), Jul. 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>



## Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

### Email / Phone / Fax

No reimbursement for email.  
No reimbursement for telephone.  
No reimbursement for FAX.

**Source:** *AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), Jul. 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).*

### Consent

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), Jul. 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).*

For rehabilitative services, informed consent is required with specific requirements to be included in the consent. See manual for details.

**Source:** *AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-15), Jul. 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).*

### Out of State Providers

Providers must have an Alabama license.

**Source:** *AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), Jul. 2019, (Accessed Sept. 2019).*

### Miscellaneous

No reference found.

## Private Payer Laws

### Definitions

No reference found.

### Requirements

No reference found.



Private Payer Laws	Parity	Service Parity	No reference found.
		Payment Parity	No reference found.
Professional Regulation / Health & Safety	Definitions	No reference found.	
	Consent	No reference found.	
	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>Licensees are expected to adhere to federal and state statute regarding prescribing of controlled substances.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>AL Admin. Code. r. 540-X-9-.11 (Accessed Sept. 2019).</i></p>	



A special purpose license allowing practitioners licensed in other states to practice across state lines may be issued.

**Source:** Code of AL Sec. 34-24-502 – 507. (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Member of the interstate medical licensing compact.

**Source:** AL Act 2015-197 (2015).

Member of the enhanced nurse’s licensure compact.

**Source:** Current NLC States and Status. NCSBN. (Accessed Sept. 2019).

### Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations

- AL Board of Optometrists (**Source:** AL Admin Code 630-X-13-.02). (Accessed: Sept. 2019).
- AL Board of Nursing (**Source:** AL Admin Code 610-X-6-.16). (Accessed Sept. 2019).