

Wisconsin

Medicaid Program: Forward Medicaid

Program Administrator: Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services

Regional Telehealth Resource Center: Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center <https://www.gptrac.org>

Wisconsin Policy At-a-Glance

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT			PRIVATE PAYER LAW		PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS	
LIVE VIDEO	STORE-AND-FORWARD	REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING	LAW EXISTS	PAYMENT PARITY	LICENSING COMPACT	CONSENT REQUIREMENT
✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	NLC, PTC	✓

Wisconsin Detailed Policy

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement	Summary	<p>Newly passed statute requires Wisconsin’s Medicaid program to provide coverage for any benefit delivered via interactive video. ForwardHealth is also required to provide reimbursement for remote patient monitoring, asynchronous telehealth and other communication-based technology covered by Medicare. However, ForwardHealth currently allows for only certain covered services to be provided via telehealth via interactive telehealth, specifically excludes store-and-forward from coverage and does not mention remote patient monitoring.</p>
	Definitions	<p>Telehealth enables a provider who is located at a distant site to render the service remotely to a member located at an originating site using a combination of interactive video, audio, and externally acquired images through a networking environment.</p> <p>Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p> <p>“Telehealth” means a practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, or transfer of medically relevant data by means of audio, video, or data communications that are used either during a patient visit or a consultation or are used to transfer medically relevant data about a patient. “Telehealth” does not include communications delivered solely by audio-only telephone, facsimile machine, or electronic mail unless the department specifies otherwise by rule.</p> <p>“Asynchronous telehealth service” is telehealth that is used to transmit medical data about a patient to a provider when the transmission is not a 2-way, real-time, interactive communication.</p> <p>“Interactive telehealth” means telehealth delivered using multimedia communication technology that permits 2-way, real-time, interactive communications between a certified provider of Medical Assistance at a distant site and the Medical Assistance recipient or the recipient’s provider.</p> <p>Source: WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p>
	Live Video	Policy



Statute requires reimbursement for any benefit that delivered via interactive telehealth that is a covered benefit under Medicaid.

Reimbursement must be provided for a consultation pertaining to a Medicaid recipient conducted through interactive telehealth between a certified provider of Medical Assistance and the recipient’s treating provider that is certified under medical assistance, except as provided by the Department by Rule.

Except as provided by the department by rule, Medicaid must cover all Medicare covered services. However, the Department may not cover or provide reimbursement for services that are first covered under the Medicare program after July 1, 2019 until the date that is one year after the date the service is covered under the Medicare program or the date the secretary explicitly approves the service as a Medical Assistance covered service, whichever is earlier.

The Department shall provide reimbursement under the Medical Assistance program for the following: Except as provided by the department by rule, services that are covered under the Medicare program under 42 USC 1395 et seq. for which the federal department of health and human services provides Medical Assistance federal financial participation and that are any of the following:

- Telehealth services,
- Remote physiologic monitoring,
- Remote evaluation of prerecorded patient information,
- Brief communication technology-based services,
- Care management services delivered through telehealth;
- Any other telehealth or communication technology-based services.

Any service not specified can be eligible if specified by the Department. The Department is required to promulgate rules specifying any services that are reimbursable. They may also exclude services from reimbursement.

Source: WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).

See Manual for covered telehealth CPT and HCPCS codes. Group services are not allowed.

Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).

ForwardHealth reimburses providers for telestroke services.

Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Allowable providers:

- Audiologists
- Nurse midwives
- Nurse practitioners
- Ph.D. psychologists
- Physician assistants
- Physicians
- Psychiatrists
- Professionals providing services in mental health or substance abuse programs certified by the DQA (Division of Quality Assurance)

Ancillary Providers

Claims for services provided via telehealth by distant site ancillary providers should be billed under the supervising physician’s NPI using the lowest appropriate level office or out-patient visit procedure code. These services must be supervised by an onsite physician.



Eligible Providers

Certified Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Providers

Required to meet telehealth certification requirements to provide telehealth.

Community Health Centers, Tribal FQHCs and RHCs

They may serve as a distant site provider for telehealth services. See manual for details.

Tribal FQHCs and RHCs may report services provided via telehealth on the cost settlement report when the FQHC or RHC served as the distant site and the member is an established patient of the tribal FQHC or RHC at the time of the telehealth service.

CHCs may not report services provided via telehealth as an encounter. Instead, CHCs should submit claims for distant site services on a professional claim form and will be reimbursed in accordance with the maximum allowable fee schedule

Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Eligible Sites

Allowable originating sites:

- Hospitals, including emergency departments
- Office/clinic
- Skilled nursing facility
- Community Health Centers (CHC)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- Rural Health Clinics (RHC)

Telehealth services that are medical in nature and would otherwise be coded as an office visit or consultation evaluation and management visit are covered for members residing in a skilled nursing facility that meets all originating site requirements.

Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).

The department may not limit coverage or reimbursement of a service provided under par. (b) or (c) based on the location of the Medical Assistance recipient when the service is provided.

Source: WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Geographic Limits

No reference found.

Facility/Transmission Fee

Reimbursement for facility fee using HCPCS procedure code Q3014. Modifier GT should not be included with procedure code Q3014

An originating site fee is not a tribal FQHC or RHC reportable encounter.

CHCs serving as originating sites should bill for originating site services, however no reimbursement will be issued as all costs are incorporated into the prospective payment system (PPS).

Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Store-and-Forward	Policy	<p>Except as provided by the department by rule, asynchronous telehealth services in which the medical data pertains to a Medical Assistance recipient must be reimbursed.</p> <p>Except as provided by the department by rule, services that are covered under Medicare for which the federal department of health and human services provides Medical Assistance federal financial participation and that are remote evaluation of prerecorded information shall be reimbursed.</p> <p>Source: WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p> <p>No reimbursement. Services must be functionally equivalent to face-to-face.</p> <p>Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p>
	Eligible Services/Specialties	No reference found.
	Geographic Limits	No reference found.
	Transmission Fee	No reference found.
Remote Patient Monitoring	Policy	<p>Except as provided by the department by rule, remote patient monitoring of a Medical Assistance recipient in which the medical data pertains to a Medical Assistance recipient must be reimbursed.</p> <p>Except as provided by the department by rule, services that are covered under Medicare for which the federal department of health and human services provides Medical Assistance federal financial participation and that are remote physiologic monitoring shall be reimbursed.</p> <p>Source: WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p> <p>No reimbursement. Services must be functionally equivalent to face-to-face.</p> <p>Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p>



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Remote Patient Monitoring	Conditions	No reference found.
	Provider Limitations	No reference found.
	Other Restrictions	No reference found.
Email / Phone / Fax	<p>The Department may promulgate rules specifying any telehealth service that is provided solely by audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or electronic mail as reimbursable under Medical Assistance.</p> <p>Source: <i>WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).</i></p> <p>No reimbursement for telephone No reimbursement for written electronic communication (text, email)</p> <p>Source: <i>WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Aug. 2019).</i></p>	
Consent	<p>Informed consent required.</p> <p>Source: <i>WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</i></p>	
Out of State Providers	<p>Out-of-state providers who do not have border status enrollment with WI Medicaid are required to obtain prior authorization (PA) before providing services. WI Medicaid is prohibited from paying providers located outside of the US, the District of Columbia and its territories.</p> <p>Source: <i>WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</i></p>	



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement	Miscellaneous		<p>The department may not require a certified provider of Medical Assistance that provides a reimbursable service to obtain an additional certification or meet additional requirements solely because the service was delivered through telehealth, except that the department may require, by rule, that the transmission of information through telehealth be of sufficient quality to be functionally equivalent to face-to-face contact. The department may apply any requirement that is applicable to a covered service that is not provided through telehealth to any service.</p> <p>Source: WI Statute Sec. 49.45 (61)(e). (Senate Bill 380 – 2019 Session), (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p> <p>POS code 02 required.</p> <p>Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p> <p>Services provided via telehealth may qualify for pediatric or Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) enhanced reimbursement. Pediatric and HPSA-eligible providers must indicate POS code 02 along with modifier GT and the applicable pediatric or HPSA modifier.</p> <p>Source: WI ForwardHealth Online Handbook. Topic #510 Telehealth. (Accessed Feb. 2020).</p>
Private Payer Laws	Definitions		No reference found.
	Requirements		No reference found.
	Parity	Service Parity	No reference found.
		Payment Parity	No reference found.



Definitions

Telemedicine means the practice of medicine when patient care, treatment or services are provided through the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications. Telemedicine does not include the provision of health care services only through an audio only telephone, email messages, text messages, facsimile transmission, mail or parcel service or any combination thereof.

Source: WI Admin. Code MED Ch. 24.02 (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Consent

Informed consent required.

Source: WI Admin. Code MED Ch. 24.07(c). (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Online Prescribing

When a physician uses a website to communicate with a patient located in this state, the physician may not provide treatment recommendations, including issuing a prescription unless the following requirements are met:

- The physician shall be licensed in the state;
- The physician’s name and contact information must be made available to the patient;
- Informed consent is required;
- A documented patient evaluation performed;
- A patient health care record is prepared and maintained.

Prescribing based on a static electronic questionnaire does not meet the minimum standard of competent medical practice.

Source: WI Admin. Code MED Ch. 24.07 (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Cross-State Licensing

WI medical license required.

Source: WI Admin. Code MED Ch. 24.04 (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Wisconsin repealed the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Source: WI Senate Bill 74 (2019 Session). (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Member of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Source: Nurse Licensure Compact (Accessed Feb. 2020).

Member of Physical Therapy Compact.

Source: PT Compact. (Accessed Mar. 2020).

Miscellaneous

Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations

- Medical Examining Board (**Source:** MED Ch. 24) (Accessed Feb. 2020).