



Telehealth Tips



Expanded Medicare Coverage During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Regulations will be effective until the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declared on 1/31/20 by the Secretary of HHS ends

Under the emergency declaration and waiver, **ALL Medicare beneficiaries** can receive telehealth services from their home.

WHO Can Provide Telehealth Services?

Physicians (MD, DO, DDS, DDM, DPM, OD, DC), nurse practitioners, physician assistants and certified nurse midwives can provide telehealth services to both new and established patients. Other professionals (certified registered nurse anesthetist, licensed clinician social worker, clinical psychologist, registered dietician and nutrition professional) can provide telehealth services within their scope of practice, consistent with Medicare benefit rules.

WHY Provide Telehealth Services?

The Medicare population is the most vulnerable to coronavirus. Encourage them to stay home to reduce their risk of exposure when their medical needs can be met remotely. **KEEP THEM SAFE!**

HOW Do I Provide Telehealth Services?

During this public health emergency, you can use any mobile computing device or technology such as a smart phone, tablet or laptop that has audio and video capabilities for two-way real-time interactive communication. FaceTime and Skype are examples of approved technology. Telehealth technology platforms offered by IT vendors can also be used. Medicare beneficiaries may not have access to a smart phone or computer to obtain a telehealth service. Encourage your elderly patients to ask a family member or friend for assistance. **HIPAA violation penalties will be waived when everyday communication technology is used and providers exercise good faith.*

WHAT is the Beneficiary's Cost?

Beneficiary out of pocket costs (deductible and coinsurance) apply to telehealth services; however, healthcare providers have the flexibility to reduce or waive those fees.

HOW Do I Bill and Get Paid for Telehealth Services?

Telehealth services are paid the same amount as in-person services under the Physician Fee Schedule. Bill Medicare as if the service is furnished in-person, but include Place of Service (POS) code 02-Telehealth on the Medicare claim.

WHAT Services Can Be Provided?

The following list includes services normally furnished in-person that can be provided via telehealth. This includes common office visits, mental health counseling and preventive health screenings.

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>

CY 2020 Medicare Telehealth Service Codes

Code	Short Descriptor	Code	Short Descriptor	Code	Short Descriptor
90785	Psytx complex interactive	96153	Intervene hlth/behave group	G0108	Diab manage trn per indiv
90791	Psych diagnostic evaluation	96154	Interv hlth/2gmt.2 fam w/pt	G0109	Diab manage trn ind/group
90792	Psych diag eval w/med srvc	96160	Pt-focused hlth risk asmt	G0270	Mnt subs tx for change dx
90832	Psytx pt&/family 30 minutes	96161	Caregiver health risk asmt	G0296	Visit to determ ldct elig
90833	Psytx pt&/fam w/e&m 30 min	97802	Medical nutrition indiv in	G0396	Alcohol/subs interv 15-30mn
90834	Psytx pt&/family 45 minutes	97803	Med nutrition indiv subseq	G0397	Alcohol/subs interv >30 min
90836	Psytx pt&/fam w/e&m 45 min	97804	Medical nutrition group	G0406	Inpt/tele follow up 15
90837	Psytx pt&/family 60 minutes	99201	Office/outpatient visit new	G0407	Inpt/tele follow up 25
90838	Psytx pt&/fam w/e&m 60 min	99202	Office/outpatient visit new	G0408	Inpt/tele follow up 35
90839	Psytx crisis initial 60 min	99203	Office/outpatient visit new	G0420	Ed svc ckd ind per session
90840	Psytx crisis ea addl 30 min	99204	Office/outpatient visit new	G0421	Ed svc ckd grp per session
90845	Psychoanalysis	99205	Office/outpatient visit new	G0425	Inpt/ed teleconsult30
90846	Family psytx w/o patient	99211	Office/outpatient visit est	G0426	Inpt/ed teleconsult50
90847	Family psytx w/patient	99212	Office/outpatient visit est	G0427	Inpt/ed teleconsult70
90951	Esrd serv 4 visits p mo <2yr	99213	Office/outpatient visit est	G0436	Tobacco-use counsel 3-10 min
90952	Esrd serv 2-3 vsts p mo <2yr	99214	Office/outpatient visit est	G0437	Tobacco-use counsel>10min
90954	Esrd serv 4 vsts p mo 2-11	99215	Office/outpatient visit est	G0438	Ppps, initial visit
90955	Esrd srv 2-3 vsts p mo 2-11	99231	Subsequent hospital care	G0439	Ppps, subseq visit
90957	Esrd srv 4 vsts p mo 12-19	99232	Subsequent hospital care	G0442	Annual alcohol screen 15 min
90958	Esrd srv 2-3 vsts p mo 12-19	99233	Subsequent hospital care	G0443	Brief alcohol misuse counsel
90960	Esrd srv 4 visits p mo 20+	99307	Nursing fac care subseq	G0444	Depression screen annual
90961	Esrd srv 2-3 vsts p mo 20+	99308	Nursing fac care subseq	G0445	High inten beh couns std 30m
90963	Esrd home pt serv p mo <2yrs	99309	Nursing fac care subseq	G0446	Intens behave ther cardio dx
90964	Esrd home pt serv p mo 2-11	99310	Nursing fac care subseq	G0447	Behavior counsel obesity 15m
90965	Esrd home pt serv p mo 12-19	99354	Prolonged service office	G0459	Telehealth inpt pharm mgmt
90966	Esrd home pt serv p mo 20+	99355	Prolonged service office	G0506	Comp asses care plan ccm svc
90967	Esrd home pt serv p day <2	99356	Prolonged service inpatient	G0508	Crit care telehea consult 60
90968	Esrd home pt serv p day 2-11	99357	Prolonged service inpatient	G0509	Crit care telehea consult 50
90969	Esrd home pt serv p day 12-19	99406	Behav chng smoking 3-10 min	G0513	Prolong prev svcs, first 30m
90970	Esrd home pt serv p day 20+	99407	Behav chng smoking > 10 min	G0514	Prolong prev svcs, addl 30m
96116	Neurobehavioral status exam	99495	Trans care 2gmt. 14 day disch	G2086	Off base opioid tx first m
96150	Assess hlth/behave init	99496	Trans care 2gmt. 7 day disch	G2087	Off base opioid tx, sub m
96151	Assess hlth/behave subseq	99497	Advncd care plan 30 min	G2088	Off opioid tx month add 30
96152	Intervene hlth/behave indiv	99498	Advncd are plan addl 30 min		

Virtual Check-In

- **Patient-initiated** communication to a healthcare provider to determine whether an office visit or remote evaluation of a recorded video and/or image is needed
- Communication can be provided via telephone, secure text messaging, e-mail or a patient portal
- The check-in should not be related to a medical visit within the previous 7 days and cannot lead to a medical visit within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment
- The patient must have an established relationship with the provider and verbally consent to receive the virtual services
- Medicare coinsurance and deductible apply
- Billing:
 - Use code G2010 for remote evaluation of a recorded video and/or image, including interpretation and follow-up with patient within 24 business hours
 - Use code G2012 for a brief communication technology-based service



E-Visit

- **Patient-initiated** digital communication, using a patient portal, that can occur over a 7-day period
- The patient must have an established relationship with the provider and verbally consent to receive the virtual services
- Medicare coinsurance and deductible apply
- Codes for practitioners who can independently bill Medicare for E/M visits:
 - 99421: online digital evaluation and management service, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, with a cumulative time during the 7 days of 5-10 minutes
 - 99422: online digital evaluation and management service, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, with a cumulative time during the 7 days of 11-20 minutes
 - 99423: online digital evaluation and management service, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, with a cumulative time during the 7 days \geq 21 minutes
- Codes for clinicians who cannot independently bill Medicare for E/M visits (PT, OT, SLP, clinical psychologists):
 - G2061: Qualified nonphysician healthcare professional online assessment, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, with a cumulative time during the 7 days of 5-10 minutes
 - G2062: Qualified nonphysician healthcare professional online assessment, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, with a cumulative time during the 7 days of 11-20 minutes
 - G2063: Qualified nonphysician healthcare professional online assessment, for an established patient, for up to 7 days, with a cumulative time during the 7 days \geq 21 minutes

Sources:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet>
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-telehealth-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-31720.pdf>