

Tennessee

Medicaid Program: TennCare

Note: TennCare is operated entirely as a managed care program.

Medicaid Program Administrator: Dept. of Human Services

Regional Telehealth Resource Center:

South Central Telehealth Resource Center

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learntelehealth.org

STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p>Telehealth means the use of real-time interactive audio, video or other telecommunications or electronic technology by a licensed healthcare provider to deliver a healthcare service to a patient within the scope of practice of the licensed healthcare provider at a site other than the site at which the patient is located; provided, however, telehealth does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audio-only conversation between a licensed healthcare provider and a patient; • An electronic mail message between a licensed healthcare provider and a patient; or • A facsimile transmission between a licensed healthcare provider and a patient. <p><i>Source: TN Code Annotated, Title 56, Ch. 7, Part 10.</i></p>	<p>“Telehealth is the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support clinical care between an individual with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues and a healthcare practitioner.”</p> <p>“Telehealth systems provide a live, interactive audio-video communication or videoconferencing connection between the individual in need of services and the crisis service delivery system.”</p> <p><i>Source: TN Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Svcs., p. 4, (July 2012).</i></p>
Live Video Reimbursement	
<p>Managed care organizations participating in the medical assistance program are required to provide coverage for telehealth under the same reimbursement policies that the plan permits for in-person encounters.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Code Annotated, Title 56, Ch. 7, Part 10.</i> (also see Private Payer section)</p>	<p>TennCare will reimburse for live video for crisis-related services.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Svcs., p. 4, (July 2012).</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
<p>The law defines telehealth as occurring in real-time, excluding store and forward from the definition.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Code Annotated, Title 56, Ch. 7, Part 10.</i></p>	<p>TennCare will not reimburse for store and forward based upon definition of “telehealth systems” which describes it as “live interactive video”,.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Svcs., p. 4, (July 2012).</i></p>
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Email/Phone/FAX	

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No reference found.	No reference found.
Online Prescribing	
<p>Prior to online or telephone prescribing, providers must document and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform an appropriate history and physical examination; • Make a diagnosis, consistent with good medical care; • Formulate a therapeutic plan and discuss it with the patient; • Ensure the availability for appropriate follow-up care. <p><i>Source: TN Composite Rules & Regulations 0880-02--14.</i></p>	No reference found.
Consent	
No reference found.	<p>The patient must be informed and given an opportunity to request an in-person assessment before receiving a telehealth assessment.</p> <p>This consent must be documented in the patient's record.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Svcs., p. 8, (July 2012).</i></p>
Location	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Cross-State Licensing	
<p>Tennessee may issue telemedicine licenses to board-certified physicians from out of state.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Code Annotated Sec. 63-6-209(b).</i></p>	No reference found.
Private Payers	
<p>Health insurance carriers are required to provide coverage for telehealth services under the same reimbursement policies that the plan permits for in-person encounters.</p> <p><i>Source: TN Code Annotated, Title 56, Ch. 7, Part 10.</i></p>	No reference found.
Site/Transmission Fee	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Miscellaneous	