

# Utah

**Medicaid Program:** Utah Medicaid

**Medicaid Program Administrator:** Utah Dept. of Health

**Regional Telehealth Resource Center:**

Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center  
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STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
<b>Definition of telemedicine/telehealth</b>	
<p>"Digital health service means the electronic transfer, exchange, or management of related data for diagnosis, treatment, consultation, educational, public health, or other related purposes."</p> <p><i>Source: UT Code Annotated Sec. 26-9f-102.</i></p>	<p>Telehealth or Telemedicine is a technological method of providing auditory and visual connection between the skilled home health care nurse at a Telehealth site and the patient living in a rural Utah area.</p> <p><i>Source: Utah Medicaid Provider Manual: Home Health Agencies, p. 18 (Jan. 2015).</i></p> <p>"Telemedicine is two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and the physician or practitioner at the distant site. This electronic communication uses interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment."</p> <p><i>Source: Utah Medicaid Provider Manual. Section I. General Information (Jan. 2015), pg. 13.</i></p>
<b>Live Video Reimbursement</b>	
<p>Providers are eligible for reimbursement under Utah's Medical Assistance Program.</p> <p><i>Source: UT Code Annotated Sec. 26-18-13.</i></p>	<p>Utah Medicaid covers medically necessary physician and nurse practitioner services delivered via telemedicine.</p> <p>Must comply with Utah Health Information Network Standards for Telehealth, which includes billing standards.</p> <p><i>Source: Utah Medicaid Provider Manual. Section I. General Information (Jan. 2015), pg. 13.</i></p>
<b>Store and Forward Reimbursement</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement</b>	
(see Medicaid column)	<p>Home telemetry is reimbursed under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be ordered by a BC/BE neurologist</li> <li>• Must have had a stroke or transient ischemic</li> </ul>

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	<p>attack with no identifiable cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hour monitoring done previously</li> <li>• Not be currently anti-coagulated on Warfarin.</li> <li>• Not have a known contra-indication for Warfarin</li> <li>• Only authorized for the 30-day test</li> </ul> <p><i>Source: UT Physician Manual. Section 2. Pg. 64 (Jan. 2015).</i></p> <p><b><u>Skilled Nurse Pilot Project for Patients in Rural Areas</u></b></p> <p>There is reimbursement in the UT Medicaid Telehealth Skilled Nurse Pilot Project for Patients in Rural Areas.</p> <p>Patient eligibility requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reside in underserved rural areas;</li> <li>• Would have to travel more than 50 paved road miles to obtain these services in person;</li> <li>• Be eligible for Medicaid coverage;</li> <li>• Require medical monitoring for diabetes;</li> <li>• Be willing and able to use required technology.</li> </ul> <p>Home health agency service delivery requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The service is delivered through secure, HIPAA-compliant transmission lines, and takes place between the home health agency and the patient's home;</li> <li>• Patient and provider are able to see and hear each other in real time;</li> <li>• An assessment at the patient's home by a home health agency registered nurse finds that the patient is unable to leave the home; is suitable for participation in the program; and requires at least two skilled nursing home visits a week;</li> <li>• Formulates a nursing care plan.</li> </ul> <p>The following services are covered for Telehealth home care patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring for compliance in taking medications, foot condition/assessment of wounds or inflamed areas, blood glucose monitoring</li> <li>• Education which may include a review in knowledge of the disease process, diet or nutritional counseling</li> <li>• Exercise and activity, diet /activity adjustment in illness/stress, medication, and glucometer use evaluation</li> <li>• RN visits are covered for Telehealth home care reimbursement.</li> </ul> <p>Home health care has a four-hour limit for all education purposes, which may include some diabetes training.</p>

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	<p><i>Source: Utah Medicaid Provider Manual: <a href="#">Home Health Agencies</a>, p. 18-20 (Jan. 2015).</i></p> <p>Patients must need more than two home health agency visits per week. Telehealth home health services are limited to diabetic monitoring and education. The agency must provide at least two in-person visits per week by a home health nurse, and may use telehealth home health services only as a supplement to the in-person visits.</p> <p><i>Source: UT Admin. Code R414-42-3.</i></p>
<b>Email/Phone/FAX</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Online Prescribing</b>	
<p>Providers must first obtain information in the usual course of professional practice that is sufficient to establish a diagnosis, to identify conditions, and to identify potential risks to the proposed treatment.</p> <p>Internet-based questionnaires or interactions on toll-free telephone numbers, when there exists no other bona fide patient-practitioner relationship or bona fide referral by a practitioner involved in an existing patient-practitioner relationship, are prohibited.</p> <p><i>Source: UT Code Annotated Sec. 58-1-501.</i></p>	No reference found.
<b>Consent</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Location</b>	
No reference found.	<p>Rural Health Clinics may serve as an originating site for telehealth services. They are not allowed to serve as a distant site.</p> <p><i>Source: <a href="#">UT Rural Health Clinics and FQHC Medicaid Manual</a>, pg. 6, (Apr. 2014).</i></p>
<b>Cross-State Licensing</b>	
<p>An out-of-state physician may practice without a Utah license if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The physician is licensed in another state, with no licensing action pending and at least 10 years of professional experience;</li> <li>• The services are rendered as a public service and for a noncommercial purpose;</li> <li>• No fee or other consideration of value is charged, expected or contemplated, beyond an amount necessary to cover the proportionate cost of malpractice insurance;</li> </ul>	No reference found.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The physician does not otherwise engage in unlawful or unprofessional conduct.</li> </ul> <p><i>Source: UT Code Annotated Sec. 58-67-305.</i></p> <p>A mental health therapist licensed in another state can provide short term transitional mental health therapy or transitional substance use disorder counseling remotely if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mental health therapist is present in the state where he/she is licensed;</li> <li>The client relocates to Utah, and was a client immediately before the relocation;</li> <li>The therapy or counseling is provided for a maximum of 45 days after the client relocates;</li> <li>Within 10 days of the client's relocation, the mental health therapist provides a written notice to the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing of their intent to provide therapy/counseling remotely; and</li> <li>The mental health therapist does not engage in unlawful or unprofessional conduct.</li> </ul> <p><i>Source: <a href="#">Laws of UT. 68-61-307</a></i></p>	
<b>Private Payers</b>	
No reference found.	No reference found.
<b>Site/Transmission Fee</b>	
No reference found.	<p>The provider at the originating site receives no additional reimbursement for the use of telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: <a href="#">Utah Medicaid Provider Manual. Section I. General Information (Jan. 2015), pg. 14.</a></i></p>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<p>If a hospital participates in telemedicine, it shall develop and implement policies governing the practice of telemedicine in accordance with the scope and practice of the hospital.</p> <p>These policies shall address security, access and retention of telemetric data, and define the privileging of all health professionals who participate in telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: <a href="#">UT Code R432-100-32.</a></i></p> <p>The definition of “practice as a substance use disorder counselor” and “practice of mental health therapy” in the Mental Health Professional Practice Act and Psychologist Licensing Act was recently modified to include service delivery “in person or remotely”.</p>	

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<p><i>Source: Laws of UT 68-60-102.</i></p> <p>In order for a provider to qualify for payment through the Autism Treatment Account, providers must be collaborating with existing telehealth networks.</p> <p><i>Source: UT Regulation Text R398-15-3.</i></p>	

Comments:

During the 2014 legislative session the Utah legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 in one-time funding for telehealth infrastructure enhancements to enhance the feasibility of providing Medicaid services via telehealth.

*Source: Utah Department of Health, Medicaid, Utah Medicaid and Telehealth PPT, Michael Hales, July 16, 2014 (accessed Feb. 2, 2015) <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00003809.pdf>*