

Washington

Medicaid Program: Washington Medicaid

Medicaid Program Administrator: Washington State Health Care Authority

Regional Telehealth Resource Center:

Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center
2900 12th Ave. N., Ste. 30W
Billings, MT 59101
(888) 662-5601
www.nrtrc.org

STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
Definition of telemedicine/telehealth	
<p>“Telemedicine means the use of tele-monitoring to enhance the delivery of certain home health skilled nursing services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection of clinical data and the transmission of such data between a patient at a distant location and the home health provider through electronic processing technologies. Objective clinical data that may be transmitted includes, but is not limited to, weight, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, blood glucose, and pulse oximetry; • The provision of certain education related to health care services using audio, video, or data communication instead of a face-to-face visit.” <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-551-2010.</i></p> <p>“Telehealth means providing physical therapy via electronic communication where the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant and the patient are not at the same physical location.”</p> <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 246-915-187.</i></p> <p><u>Emergency Rule (Expires 4/22/15)</u></p> <p>Telemedicine is when a health care practitioner uses HIPAA-compliant, interactive, real-time audio and video telecommunications (including web-based applications) to deliver covered services that are within his or her scope of practice to a client at a site other than the site where the provider is located. Using telemedicine enables the health care practitioner and the client to interact in real-time communication as if they were having a face-to-face session. Telemedicine allows clients, particularly those in medically underserved areas of the state, improved access to essential health care services that may not otherwise be available without traveling long distances.</p>	<p>“Telemedicine is when a health care practitioner uses interactive real-time audio and video telecommunications to deliver covered services that are within his or her scope of practice to a client at a site other than the site where the provider is located.”</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 45 (Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p>

STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
<i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-531-1730.</i>	
Live Video Reimbursement	
No reference found.	<p>Yes, for patients with fee-for-service coverage.</p> <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations; • Office or other outpatient visits; • Psychiatric intake and assessment; • Individual psychotherapy; • Visit for drug monitoring <p>Eligible Providers at the Distant Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physicians (including Psychiatrists); and • Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 47-48 (Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p> <p>Patients must be present and participate in the visit.</p> <p>For patients with managed care plan coverage, telehealth services will not be reimbursed separately. All services must be arranged and provided by primary care providers. It is not mandatory that the plan pay for telehealth services.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 46 (Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p> <p><u>New Rule (Now Effective, Expires 4/31/15) – Applied Behavioral Analysis</u></p> <p>Telemedicine can be used to provide these services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program supervision when the client is present; and • Family training, which does not require the client's presence. <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-531A-1200.</i></p>
Store and Forward Reimbursement	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Remote Patient Monitoring Reimbursement	
<i>(see Medicaid column)</i>	<p>Home health monitoring is not covered as telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 45 (Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p> <p>The Medicaid agency covers the delivery of home health services through telemedicine.</p>

STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
	<p>Services are provided for clients who have been diagnosed with an unstable condition, and who may be at risk for hospitalization or a more costly level of care.</p> <p>Coverage is limited to one telemedicine interaction, per patient, per day, based on the ordering licensed practitioner's care plan.</p> <p>Eligible services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and monitoring of clinical data including, but not limited to, vital signs, pain levels and other biometric measures specified in the plan of care; • Assessment of response to previous changes in the plan of care; • Detection of condition changes based on the telemedicine encounter that may indicate the need for a change in the plan of care. • Implementation of a management plan <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 182-551-2125 & WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Home Health Svcs. (Acute Care Svcs.), p. 20-26 (Jul. 1, 2014).</i></p> <p>Must be provided by a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse.</p> <p>The Medicaid agency does not require prior authorization for the delivery of home health services through telemedicine.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Home Health Svcs. (Acute Care Svcs.), p. 22 (Jul. 1, 2014).</i></p>
Email/Phone/FAX	
No reference found.	<p>No reimbursement for email. No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for FAX.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 63(Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Online Prescribing	
<p>The WA Medical Quality Assurance Commission has issued guidelines on the use of the Internet in medical practices. A guideline does not have the force of law, but can be considered by the Commission to be the standard of practice in the state.</p> <p>A documented patient evaluation, including history and physical evaluation adequate to establish diagnoses and identify underlying conditions and/or contra-indications to the treatment recommended/provided, must be obtained prior to providing treatment, including issuing</p>	No reference found.

STATE LAW/REGULATIONS	MEDICAID PROGRAM
<p>prescriptions, electronically or otherwise.</p> <p>Treatment and consultation recommendations made in an online setting, including issuing a prescription via electronic means, will be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in in-person settings.</p> <p>Treatment, including issuing a prescription, based solely on an online questionnaire or consultation does not constitute an acceptable standard of care.</p> <p><i>Source: Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission, Guidelines for Appropriate Use of the Internet in Medical Practice,</i></p>	
Consent	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Location	
No reference found.	<p>Eligible originating sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioner offices; • Hospitals; • Critical Access Hospitals; • Rural Health Clinics; • Federally Qualified Health Centers. <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional svcs., p. 46 (Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Cross-State Licensing	
<p>Out-of-state, licensed practitioners may deliver telemedicine or telehealth services, as long as they do not open an office or appoint a place of meeting patients or receive calls within the state.</p> <p><i>Source: Revised Code of WA Sec. 18.71.030 (2012).</i></p>	No reference found.
Private Payers	
No reference found.	No reference found.
Site/Transmission Fee	
	<p>Facility fees for originating sites.</p> <p><i>Source: WA State Health Care Authority, Medicaid Provider Guide, Physician-Related Svcs./Health Care Professional Svcs., p. 46 (Jan. 1, 2015).</i></p>
Miscellaneous	
<p>Physical Therapy</p> <p>Licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants may provide physical therapy via telehealth. The clinical record must indicate that the physical therapy occurred via telehealth.</p> <p><i>Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 246-915-187.</i></p>	

Comment:

WA State requires a provider directory to be updated monthly. For each health plan, the associated provider directory must include information about available telemedicine services and specifically described for each provider.

Source: WA Admin. Code Sec. 284-43-204.