

Alabama

Medicaid Program: Alabama Medicaid

Program Administrator: Alabama Medicaid Agency

Regional Telehealth Resource Center: Southeast Telehealth Resource Center www.setrc.us

Alabama Policy At-a-Glance

| MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT | | | PRIVATE PAYER LAW | | PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| LIVE VIDEO | STORE-AND-FORWARD | REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING | LAW EXISTS | PAYMENT PARITY | LICENSURE COMPACTS | CONSENT REQUIREMENT |
| ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | IMLC, NLC, EMS | ✓ |

Alabama Detailed Policy

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement | Summary | <p>Live video telemedicine services are covered for limited specialties and under special circumstances. Telephone consultations are not authorized.</p> <p>Source: AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> <p>Alabama Medicaid reimburses for live video under some circumstances. The Agency also covers an origination site fee. For all telemedicine services, an appropriately trained staff member, or employees familiar with the patient’s treatment plan must be immediately available in-person to the patient.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (p. 28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> <p>They make no reference to store-and-forward reimbursement, but the program reimburses for In-Home Monitoring through the Alabama Coordinated Health Network program for diabetes and Chronic Heart failure, although it’s not considered to fall under the telemedicine program.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (40-38), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> |
| | Definitions | <p>There is no explicit definition of “telemedicine” given in state Medicaid policy. However, the provider manual states, “Services must be administered via an interactive audio and video telecommunications system which permits two-way communication between the distant site physician and the origination site where the recipient is located (this does not include a telephone conversation, electronic mail message, or facsimile transmission between the physician, recipient, or a consultation between two physicians).”</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> |
| | Live Video Policy | <p>Alabama Medicaid reimburses for live video for certain services and under certain circumstances.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020). & AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14(f)(5).</p> |



Eligible Services / Specialties

Alabama Medicaid reimburses for the following services when billed with a GT modifier:

- Consultations;
- Office or other outpatient visits;
- Individual psychotherapy;
- Psychiatric diagnostic services;
- Neurobehavioral status exams.

Procedure codes for Applied Behavior Analysis therapy is also covered.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Telemedicine services are covered for limited specialties and under special circumstances.

Source: AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14(f)(5). (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Rehabilitation services that are delivered face to face can either be in person or via telemedicine/telehealth, as approved by the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Live video telehealth may also be used to deliver Nursing Assessment and Care and Rehabilitative Services when certain conditions are met.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-1, 13 & 61), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Eligible Providers

All physicians with an Alabama license, enrolled as a provider with the Alabama Medicaid Agency, regardless of location, are eligible to participate in the Telemedicine Program to provide medically necessary telemedicine services to Alabama Medicaid eligible recipients. In order to participate in the telemedicine program:

- Physicians must be enrolled with Alabama Medicaid with a specialty type of 931 (Telemedicine Service)
- Physician must submit the telemedicine Service Agreement/Certification form
- Physician must obtain prior consent from the recipient before services are rendered. This will count as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 annual physician office visits currently allowed.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17) July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

For Nursing Assessment and Care services for DMH Mental Illness, and DMH Substance Abuse the following providers are eligible:

- Licensed Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-61), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Rehabilitative services that are delivered face-to-face can either be in person or via telemedicine/telehealth, as approved by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-1), July, 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Eligible Sites

For rehabilitative services, the originating site must be at:

- Physician's office;
- Hospital;
- Critical Access Hospital;
- Rural Health Clinic;
- Federally Qualified Health Center;
- Community mental health center (to include co-located sites with partnering agencies);
- Public health department.

Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-12), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

| Live Video | Geographic Limits | <p>For rehabilitative services, the distant site may be located outside of Alabama as long as the physician has an Alabama license and is enrolled as an Alabama Medicaid provider.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-12), January 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> |
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| | Facility/Transmission Fee | <p>AL Medicaid reimburses providers for origination site fees for covered telemedicine services. The origination fee is limited to one per date of service per recipient.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> <p>The Agency will not reimburse providers for origination site or transmission fees.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-15), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> |
| Store-and-Forward | Policy | No reference found. |
| | Eligible Services/Specialties | No reference found. |
| | Geographic Limits | No reference found. |
| | Transmission Fee | No reference found. |



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

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| Remote Patient Monitoring | Policy | <p>Alabama Medicaid will reimburse remote patient monitoring for specified conditions through the In-Home Remote Patient Monitoring Program. The program is administered by the Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN). Patients may be referred to the program by any source including a physician, ACHN Care Coordinators, patient or caregiver, the Health Department, hospitals, home health agencies or community-based organizations. Orders for In-Home Monitoring along with the specific parameters for daily monitoring must be obtained from the patient's primary medical provider prior to evaluation and admission.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (40-38), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> |
| | Conditions | <p>Patients with the following medical conditions may register for the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • Congestive Heart Failure • Hypertension <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (40-38), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> |
| | Provider Limitations | No reference found. |
| | Other Restrictions | No reference found. |
| Email / Phone / Fax | <p>No reimbursement for email. No reimbursement for telephone. No reimbursement for FAX.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> <p>Telephone consultations are not authorized.</p> <p>Source: AL Admin. Code r. 560-X-6-.14. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> | |
| Consent | <p>Physician must obtain prior consent from the recipient before services are rendered, this will count as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 annual physician office visits currently allowed.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> <p>For rehabilitative services, informed consent is required with specific requirements to be included in the consent. See manual for details.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (105-14,15), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> | |



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| Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement | Out of State Providers | <p>Providers must have an Alabama license.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 2020).</p> | |
| | Miscellaneous | <p>All procedure codes billed for telemedicine services must be billed with modifier GT.</p> <p>Source: AL Medicaid Management Information System Provider Manual, (28-17), (105-15), July 2020. (Accessed Sept. 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

Board of Nursing

Telehealth Nursing: The practice of distance nursing care using telecommunications technology.

Source: AL Admin Code 610-X-6-.01(25). (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Board of Optometry

Telemedicine: As used in these regulations, a health service that is delivered by a licensed optometrist acting within the scope of his or her license and that requires the use of telecommunications technology other than telephone or facsimile. Telecommunications technology as used herein shall include, but not be limited to:

- Compressed digital interactive video, audio, or data transmission;
- Clinical data transmission using computer imaging by way of still image capture and store and forward;
- Other technology that facilitates access to health care services or optometric specialty services.

Source: AL Admin Code 630-X-13-.01(7). (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Board of Social Work

Telehealth is a mode of providing social work services through interactive audio, video or electronic communication occurring between a licensed social worker and the client, including any electronic communication for evaluation, assessment, treatment, and management of confidential information and case records in a secure platform.

Source: AL Admin Code 850-x-2-.01(7). (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Consent

Board of Social Work

Consent must be obtained and documented from the client upon initiation of telehealth services.

Source: AL Admin Code 850-x-2-.04(2)(a). (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Online Prescribing

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners holds the position that, when prescribing medications to an individual, the prescriber, when possible, should personally examine the patient. Prescribing medications for patients the physician has not personally examined may be suitable for certain circumstances, including telemedicine.

Licensees are expected to adhere to federal and state statute regarding prescribing of controlled substances.

Source: AL Admin. Code. r. 540-X-9-.11(2) & (3). (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Board of Optometry

A distant site provider who provides telemedicine services to a patient that is not present at an established treatment site shall ensure that a proper provider-patient relationship is established, which shall include at least the following:

- Having had at least one face-to-face meeting, either in person, or at an established treatment site via telecommunications;
- Confirming the identity of the person requesting treatment by establishing that the person requesting the treatment is in fact whom he or she claims to be.

Evaluation, treatment, and consultation recommendations made via telemedicine, including, but not limited to the issuance of prescriptions, shall be held to the same standards of practice as those in traditional in-person clinical settings. Distant site providers shall obtain an adequate and complete medical history for the patient before providing treatment and shall document the medical history in the patient record.

Source: AL Admin Code 630-X-13-.02. (Accessed Sept. 2020).



A special purpose license allowing practitioners licensed in other states to practice across state lines may be issued if an applicant's state of principle license allows for reciprocity.

Source: Code of AL Sec. 34-24-502 – 507. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Member of the interstate medical licensing compact.

Source: Code of AL Sec. 34-24-520 – 543 & Interstate Medical Licensing Compact. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Member of the enhanced nurse's licensure compact.

Source: Code of AL Sec. 34-21-120 – 130 & Nurse Licensure Compact. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Member of the Emergency Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact

Source: Code of AL Sec. 22-18-50 & Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice. (Accessed Sept. 2020).

Professional Board Telehealth-Specific Regulations

- AL Board of Optometrists (**Source:** AL Admin Code 630-X-13-.02). (Accessed Sept. 2020).
- AL Board of Nursing (**Source:** AL Admin Code 610-X-6-.16). (Accessed Sept. 2020).
- AL Board of Social Work (**Source:** AL Admin Code 850-x-2-.04). (Accessed Sept. 2020).