

Michigan Telehealth Reimbursement Summary

Reimbursement for telehealth services is dependent upon the type of insurance in which the patient is enrolled: Medicare, Medicaid, or Commercial / Private Insurance.

Medicare

Medicare is a federal program, so its program conditions of payment are the same across the United States. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sets federal guidelines for telehealth reimbursement for Medicare patients. Medicare pays for certain provider types and certain outpatient professional services (CPT codes) for patients accessing care from sites in rural counties and HPSAs in rural census tracts.

The UMTRC has created a Medicare Telehealth Reimbursement Summary. See: <http://www.umtrc.org/resources/payers-reimbursement/medicare-telehealth-reimbursement-summary/?query=category.eq.Payers%20Reimbursement&back=Resources>

Michigan Law and Definitions

Each state has its own law(s) that define telehealth and/or telemedicine.

Michigan Telemedicine/Telehealth Definition

"Telemedicine means the use of an electronic media to link patients with health care professionals in different locations. To be considered telemedicine, the health care professional must be able to examine the patient via a real-time, interactive audio or video, or both, telecommunications system, and the patient must be able to interact with the off-site health care professional at the time the services are provided."

Source: [MI Compiled Law Services Sec. 500.3476 \(2012\).](#)

Legislation for Online Prescribing in Michigan

A health professional providing telehealth service to a patient may prescribe the patient a drug if both the following are met:

- The health professional is a prescriber who is acting within the scope of his or her practice; and
- If the health professional is prescribing a controlled substance, the health professional must meet the requirements of this act applicable to that health professional for prescribing a controlled substance.

The health professional must also provide a referral for health care services that are geographically accessible to the patient, if medically necessary. They also must make

himself or herself (or a delegated health professional) available for follow-up care or refer the patient to another health professional for follow-up care.

Michigan Medicaid

Each state has its own unique Medicaid program. “Effective October 1, 2013, there are no distance requirements between the originating and distant site when providing telemedicine services for Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicaid beneficiaries.”

Source: [*Michigan Department of Community Health Bulletin Number: MSA 13-34*](#)
(Issued August 30, 2013, Effective October 1, 2013)

Michigan Provider Manual

Section 17 – Telemedicine of the Michigan Provider Manual contains detailed information regarding covered Medicaid services for telehealth reimbursement. Michigan Medicaid does not reimburse for store and forward technology.

See: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5100-87572--,00.html

Michigan Medicaid Policy Bulletins

Michigan Medicaid Policy Bulletins can be found on the MDHHS site. See: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_42542_42543_42546_42553-87513--,00.html

Michigan Medicaid Reimbursement Fee Schedule

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reimburses based upon the billing and reimbursement guidelines located on their website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_42542_42543_42546_42551-151698--,00.html

Private Payer

Each state is different, even within the same company, like Anthem, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or United that serve multiple states in the United States.

Michigan Telemedicine Parity Law for Commercial Payers

Contracts shall not require face-to-face contact between a health care professional and a patient for services appropriately provided through telemedicine, as determined by the insurer or health maintenance organization. Telemedicine services shall be provided by a health care professional who is licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized to engage in his or her health care profession in the state where the patient is located. Telemedicine services are subject to all terms and conditions of the contract.

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Page 2 of 3

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[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(2pjtoynom2bkxrecnrcv4cdda\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=home](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(2pjtoynom2bkxrecnrcv4cdda))/mileg.aspx?page=home)

Contracts shall not require face-to-face contact between a health care professional and a patient for services appropriately provided through telemedicine, as determined by the insurer. Telemedicine services shall be provided by a health care professional who is licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized to engage in his or her health care profession in the state where the patient is located. Telemedicine services are subject to all terms and conditions of the contract. See:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(flbh4kq0011mgllmjdxl mxmg\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-500-3476](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(flbh4kq0011mgllmjdxl mxmg))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-500-3476)

Additional Information on Telehealth Policy can be found at the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center's website at: <http://www.cchpca.org/state-laws-and-reimbursement-policies>

Additional Michigan Legislation

Speech-Language and Audiology Services; Behavioral Health Therapy; Medication Therapy Management

“Telepractice is the use of telecommunications and information technologies for the exchange of encrypted patient data for the provision of speech-language and audiology services. Telepractice must be obtained through real-time interaction between the patient's physical location (patient site) and the provider's physical location (provider site).”

Source: [MI Dept. of Community Health, Medicaid Provider Manual, p. 1720 \(Oct. 1, 2017\).](#)