TELEHEALTH POLICY & AUTISM

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
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• Always consult with legal counsel.

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CCHP is an independent, *public interest* organization that strives to advance state and national telehealth policies that promote better systems of care, improved health outcomes, and provide greater *health equity of access to quality, affordable care and services*. 
Current Laws, Regulations, Pending Bills  
State & Federal

Interactive Policy Map
WHAT IS TELEHEALTH?

A doctor's diagnosis "by radio" on the cover of the February, 1925 issue of Science and Invention magazine
WHAT IS TELEHEALTH?

Telehealth is a *means* of enhancing health care, public health, and health education delivery and support using digital telecommunication technologies.
Live Video

Patient & provider interact in real time. Variety of high-speed digital telecommunications. Outpatient or inpatient specialty consultation. Most commonly used.

Store-and-Forward

Not in real-time. Often low bandwidth, still images, can store video clips. Best used in dermatology, ophthalmology, pathology, and radiology. Exploring new avenues, such as psychiatry.
Remote Patient Monitoring
Hospital emergency departments, intensive care units, and skilled nursing facilities.
At-home management of patients with chronic conditions.
Keeping people healthy and at home. May or may not be in real-time.

Mobile Health (mHealth)
Health care, public health, and health education.
Supported by cell phones, tablet computers, PDAs, and other mobile communication devices.
Can be targeted (promoting healthy behavior and disease management) to wide-scale (disease outbreak alerts).
WHY USE TELEHEALTH FOR AUTISM?

- Telehealth works well in Autism treatment because of its tiered-delivery model. Supervision by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) using synchronous telehealth as the frontline behavior technician implements the treatment plan in person.

- Telehealth expands the capacity of BCBAs and licensed professionals who treat autism spectrum disorder.

- Store-and-forward telehealth is also useful for autism treatment providers who want to view treatment when their schedule permits and/or to ensure treatment integrity and consistency by the behavior technician(s) implementing the treatment plan.
SOME RECENT PUBLISHED ARTICLES


ARE TELEHEALTH DELIVERED SERVICES FOR AUTISM COVERED?
STATE TELEHEALTH POLICY

42 states have a definition for telemedicine

32 states (and DC) have a definition for telehealth

3 states
Alabama, New Jersey and Rhode Island have no definition for either

As of March 2016
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT BY SERVICE MODALITY

Live Video
47 states and DC

Store and Forward
Only in 9 states

Remote Patient Monitoring
16 states

As of March 2016
PARITY IN PAYMENT WITH IN-PERSON

33 states and DC have telehealth private payer laws. Some go into effect at a later date.

This is the most common policy change at the state level!

Parity is difficult to determine:
- Parity in services covered vs. parity in payment
- Many states make their telehealth private payer laws “subject to the terms and conditions of the contract”
LEGISLATION IN 2016

158 telehealth related bills introduced in 44 states

*Most common legislation addresses:*
  - Reimbursement
  - Telehealth professional standards (need for in-person exam, prescribing, etc.)
  - Cross-State Licensing

*All Incremental Approaches to Needed Change*
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Most states reimburse for some type of mental health services delivered via telehealth.

However

Very few specific statements on telehealth policy as it relates to autism.
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for Clients Age 20 and Younger:

Eligible telemedicine services:
- Program supervision when the child is present
- Family training, which does not require the child's presence
- Lead behavioral analysis therapist (LBAT) may use telemedicine to supervise the therapy assistant’s (TA) delivery of ABA services to the client, the family, or both. LBATs who use telemedicine are responsible for determining if telemedicine can be performed without compromising the quality of the parent training, or the outcome of the ABA therapy treatment plan. Supervision is not a billable service, when telemedicine is used for supervision, but providers may bill HCPCS code Q3014 with the TA’s direct service encounter. Providers must have a supervision note written by the supervising BCBA in the client’s file.

Services not eligible:
- Email, telephone, facsimile transmission
- Installation or maintenance, purchase, rental or repair of equipment

Home is an eligible originating site
Children’s Behavioral Health Covered by Medicaid

- A trained staff member must be immediately available to a child receiving telehealth behavioral health service. This requirement may be waived by a legal guardian.
- For behavioral health, restriction to services if child is within 30 miles of a provider is waived for behavioral health services.
- NE Medicaid only reimburses for Live Video
CONNECTICUT & NEW MEXICO

CT Medicaid
• For children 18 years or younger, will provide payment for case management services provided electronically or over telephone by licensed behavioral health clinician (exception)

New Mexico Managed Care
• Will provide services for autism
• Will cover telehealth delivered services
COVERAGE MAY EXIST

- No explicit statement that services for autism are covered if delivered via telehealth
- Majority of time only live video is reimbursed
- Originating site may not include the home
RESOURCES

• Center for Connected Health Policy
  ❖ www.cchpca.org

• Telehealth Resource Centers
  ❖ www.telehealthresourcecenter.org
THANK YOU!

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