



What is Telehealth?

Telehealth is defined as the delivery and facilitation of health and health-related services including medical care, provider and patient education, health information services, and self-care via telecommunications and digital communication technologies. The terms *telehealth* and *telemedicine* are often used interchangeably, but telehealth has evolved to encapsulate a broader array of digital healthcare activities and services.

What is Telemedicine?

Telemedicine refers to the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients by means of telecommunications technology who are geographically separated from their provider. Telemedicine visits generally consist of a video visit between the provider and a patient via a device that connects to the internet such as a computer, tablet, or smartphone. This allows for long-distance patient and clinician contact, care, advice, reminders, education, interventions, remote monitoring and admissions.

What is the "Stay Healthy, Stay Home Telehealth Toolkit"?

A toolkit of educational videos and printable resources which are aimed at assisting professionals with implementing or expanding the use of telemedicine with home dialysis patients to limit community spread of infectious disease, maintain social distancing practices while providing access to care to patients in the home modality setting.

What's included in the "Stay Healthy, Stay Home Telehealth Toolkit"?

The following **clickable**, **viewable** and **printable** resources will assist providers in understanding the role of telemedicine, its benefits and the utilization with home dialysis patients.





Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet

MEDICARE TELEMEDICINE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FACT SHEET

Mar 17, 2020 Telenealtr

Medicare coverage and payment of virtual services

INTRODUCTION:

Under President Trump's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has broadened access to Medicare telehealth services so that beneficiaries can receive a wider range of services from their doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility. These policy changes build on the regulatory flexibilities granted under the President's emergency declaration. CMS is expanding this benefit on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. The benefits are part of the broader effort by CMS and the White House Task Force to ensure that all Americans – particularly those at high-risk of complications from the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 – are aware of easy-touse, accessible benefits that can help keep them healthy while helping to contain the community spread of this virus.

Telehealth, telemedicine, and related terms generally refer to the exchange of medical information from one site to another through electronic communication to improve a patient's health. Innovative uses of this kind of technology in the provision of healthcare is increasing. And with the emergence of the virus causing the disease COVID-19, there is an urgency to expand the use of technology to help people who need routine care, and keep vulnerable beneficiaries and beneficiaries with mild symptoms in their homes while maintaining access to the care they need. Limiting community spread of the virus, as well as limiting the exposure to other patients and staff members will slow viral spread.

EXPANSION OF TELEHEALTH WITH 1135 WAIVER: Under this new waiver, Medicare can pay for office, hospital, and other visits furnished via telehealth across the country and including in patient's places of residence starting March 6, 2020. A range of providers, such as doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers, will be able to offer telehealth to their patients. Additionally, the HIS Office of Inspector General (OIG) is providing flexibility for healthcare providers to reduce or waive costsharing for telehealth visits paid by federal healthcare programs.

A few Key Takeaways:

- Effective for services starting March 6, 2020 and for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Medicare will make payment for Medicare telehealth services furnished to patients in broader circumstances.
- These visits are considered the same as in-person visits and are paid at the same rate as regular, in-person visits.
- Starting March 6, 2020 and for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Medicare will make payment for professional services furnished to beneficiaries in all areas of the country in all settings.

CMS – ESRD Provider Telehealth & Telemedicine Toolkit

ESRD Provider Telehealth and Telemedicine Tool Kit						
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Table of Contents						
Intent of Toolkit:						
Tool Kit Contents:						
1135 Waiver Information						
CMS Telemedicine General Policy Guidance	4					
Telehealth Implementation Guide						
State Statute Guidance						
Basics on Setting up Telehealth						
Telehealth Technical Assistance						
Selecting a Vendor						
Articles						
Patient and Community Resources						
Intert of Toolkit: Under President Trump's leadership to respond to the need to limit the spre- the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMs) has broadened access to services to that beneficiaries can receive a wider range of services from their travel to a healthcare facility. These policy changes build on the regulatory fit President's emergency declaration. CMS is expanding this benefit on a temp under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Respons Appropriation SAC. The benefits are part of the broader effort by CMS and to to ensure that all Americans - particularly those at high-risk of complications the disease COVD-19 are awar of easy-to-use, accessible benefits that can I while helping to contain the community spread of this virus.	o Medicare telehealth doctors without having to exibilities granted under the orary and emergency basis is Supplemental he White House Task Force from the virus that causes help keep them healthy					
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Note, this toolkit is designed to provide information only and not intended to endors	e any non-federal entities.					
Information specific to kidney care is indicated by an asterisk (*).						

Toolkit at a Glance:

CMS has expanded access to Medicare telehealth services so beneficiaries can receive a wider range of services from their doctors and practitioners without having to travel to a healthcare facility under the 1135 waiver authority, see the ESRD Provider Telehealth and Telemedicine Toolkit for additional information.

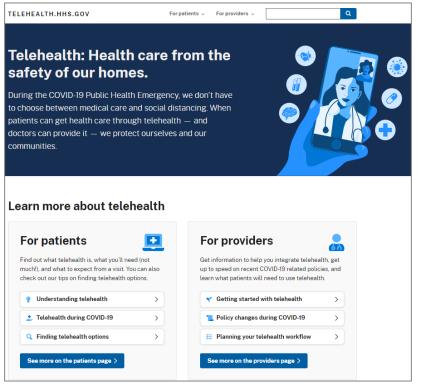




<u>CMS – Excel List of Covered Medicare Telehealth Services and Billing Codes</u>

	Home About CMS Newsroom Archive 🧿 Help 🖶 Print								
CMS.gov Centers for Medicaid Services									
Medicare	Medicaid/CHIP	Medicare-Medicaid Coordination	Private Insurance	Innovation Center	Regulations & Guidance	Research, Statistics, Data & Systems	Outreach & Education		
Home > Medicare > Telehealth > List of Telehealth Services									
Telehealt		List of Tele	List of Telehealth Services						
Submitting a Request Request for Addition		List of services pa	List of services payable under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule when furnished via telehealth.						
CMS Criteria for Submitted Requests		Covered Telehealt	Covered Telehealth Services for PHE for the COVID-19 pandemic, effective March 1, 2020 - Updated 04/30/2020 (ZIP)						
Review			Page Last Modified: 04/30/2020 04:41 PM Help with File Formats and Plug-Ins						
Deletion of S	ervices								
Changes									
Adding Servi									
List of Teleho	ealth Services								

TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV



For Providers:

Get information to help you integrate telehealth, get up to speed on recent COVID-19 related policies, and learn what patients will need to use telehealth.

For Patients:

Find out what telehealth is, what you'll need, and what to expect from a visit. Patients can also check out tips on finding telehealth options.



w can you provide care through telemedicine?

There are three main types of virtual services physicians and other professionals can provide:

Medicare telehealth visits (as regular in-person

visits) OHCPCS/CPT Codes: 99201-99215 for outpatient or office services; G0425-G0427 for ED or initial inpatient services; G0406-G0408 for follow up inpatient services

Virtual check-ins (5 to 10-minute visit that



IPRO ESRD Network Program – Telehealth for the ESRD Provider



What has changed to make telehealth more available for use during the COVID-19 Outbreak? Under the 1135-Waiver authority and the Coronavirus Under the 1135-Waiver authority and the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriation Act, Medicare coverage for telehealth services was expanded with effective date of March 1, 2020. This expansion allows for the use of technology to help people who need routine care get access to providers, while limiting their exposure to possible situations that could lead to their contracting or spreading the virus.

Who can provide healthcare services through telemedicine?

A range of providers including doctors, nurse ers, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse assistants, dinical psychologists, registered dietitians, and licensed clinical social workers are able to offer telehealth as long as it's appropriate for the patient. Each discipline should follow regulations based on their state and their organization's direction.

What is covered for reimbursement?

- Telehealth services for patients located at their homes at the time of the virtual visit.
- Coverage of patients with no prior established relationship.
- Use of telecommunications technologies with audio and video capabilities that allow for
- two-way, real time interactive communication. This could include communications using telephones.

What are some specific recommendations for use telehealth in the care of ESRD patients during the COVID-19 Outbreak? ndations for use o Physician visits for home dialysis patients

 Initial appointments for transplant evaluation Visits with stable in-center hemodialysis patients during the CMS Waiver of Conditions of Coverage

494.90(b)(4) which requires for a monthly in-person visit.

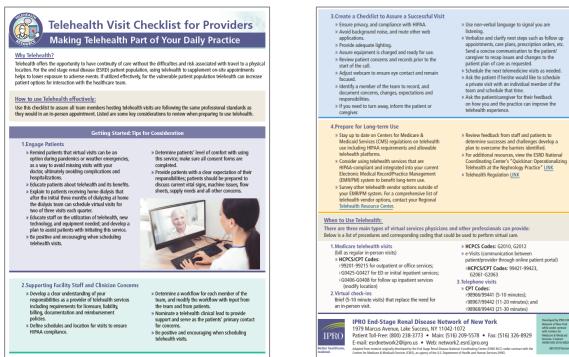
How can a provider bill for telehealth services? Telehealth services are generally billed as an in-person visit and payed at the same rate. However, the designated Place-of-Service (POS) code should indicate '02-Telehealth'.

When can you start providing care through telehealth platforms? Reimbursement to clinicians offering telehealth sevices is effective as of March 1, 2020 and extended through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, as indicated per the 1135-Waiver on the Corrective



mitigates the need for in-person visit) OHCPCS Codes: G2010, G2012 (FAQs): https://edit.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-tele-health-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-31720.pdf e-Visits (communication between patient/provider through online patient portal) oHCPCS/CPT Codes: 99421-99423, G2061-G2063 CMS – End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Facilities: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19 (Waivers): https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-es-rd-facilities.pdf Telephone Visits oCPT Codes: 98966/99441 (5-10 minutes); 98967/99442 (11-20 minutes); and 98968/99443 (21-30 minutes) Renal Physicians Association – Guidance on Billing and Coding for Remote Nephrology Services: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.renalmd.org/resource/ resmgr/covid_19/rev-rpa_guidance_on_billing_.pdf Do I need to use a HIPAA compliant system or specialized technology? Effective immediately, the Department of Health and Effective immediately, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Offices for Cills (Bighs (DCR) will exercise enforcement discretion and waive penalities for HIPAA violations against health care providers that serve patients in good faith through everyday communications technologies, such sa FaceTime or Skype, during the COVD-19 antionwide public health emergency, if you are considering establishing a permanent telemedicine Telehealth Start-Up and Resource Guide: https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/tele healthguide_final_0.pdf the new emergency declaration Telemedicine Vendors Directory: https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/service Coverage and Payment Related to COVID-10
Medicare: program, provided to the right are links to telemedicine vendors to consider. IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network of New York 1979 Marcus Avenue, Lake Success, NY 11042-1072 Patient Toll-Free: (800) 238-3773 • Main: (516) 209-5578 • Fax: (516) 326-8929 E-mail: esrdnetwork2@ipro.us • Web: network2.esrd.ipro.org **IPRO**

IPRO ESRD Network Program – Provider Checklist



V.1. 8/14/2020.Stay Healthy, Stay Home Telehealth Toolkit Provider Reference Guide

If you are considering telehealth as a platform for providing care to ESRD patients, please review the following resources for more information: CMS – ESRD Provider Telehealth and Telemedicir

Toolkit: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/esrd-provid-er-telehealth-telemedicine-toolkit.pdf

 CMS – Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medi- care-telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet Medicare Telehealth Frequently Asked Questions

· List of Telehealth Services that can be provided under

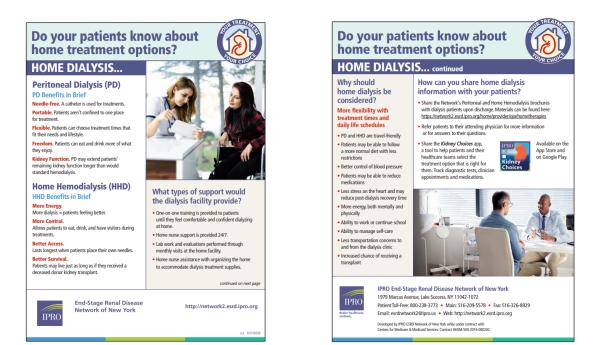
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-In-formation/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes

https://www.cms.gov/files/document/03052020-medi-care-covid-19-fact-sheet.pdf

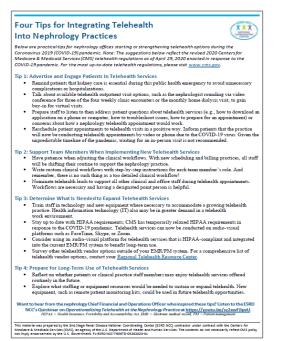




<u>IPRO ESRD Network Program – Do your patients know about home treatment</u> <u>options?</u>



ESRD NCC – Four Tips for Integrating Telehealth into Nephrology Practices



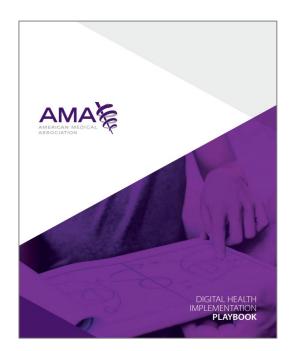
Tips for Integrating Telehealth:

In this telehealth tip sheet you will find practical tips for nephrology offices starting or strengthening their telehealth options during the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. IPRO

Stay Healthy, Stay Home Telehealth Toolkit Provider Reference Guide



American Medical Association (AMA) Digital Health Implementation Playbook



- The Playbook is designed for care teams and administrators in medical practices of all sizes and areas of specialty.
- New technologies are fundamentally changing the way people interact with health care. Successful implementation of digital health technology will be imperative for improving patient outcomes and ensuring financial stability for health care practices.
- Remote patient monitoring (RPM) is a digital health solution that captures and records patient physiologic data outside of a traditional health care environment.

CMS Medicare Learning Network Booklet – Telehealth Services



Learn about these Medicare telehealth services topics:

- Originating sites
- Distant site practitioners
- Telehealth services
- Telehealth services billing and payment
- Telehealth originating sites billing and payment
- Resources
- Helpful websites and Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators

Medicare pays for specific (Part B) physician or practitioner services furnished through a telecommunications system. Telehealth services substitute for an in-person encounter.



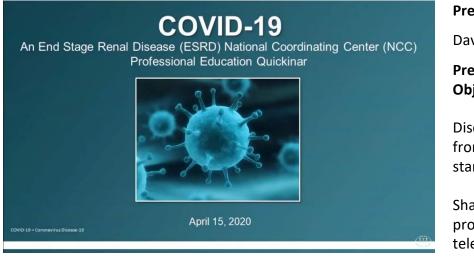


Provider Webinar – CMS-Medicare Learning Network (MLN): <u>Medicare Coverage</u> and Payment of Virtual Services



This video will provide you with answers to common questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth services benefit under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Provider Webinar – ESRD NCC Quickinar: <u>Operationalizing Telehealth at the</u> <u>Nephrology Practice</u>



Presenter:

David Arrieta, MBA

Presentation Objectives:

Discussion of telehealth from an administrative standpoint.

Shared information on process planning and telehealth workflows.



How Do I Use These Resources?

Review all of the Stay Healthy, Stay Home Telehealth Resources in this toolkit and familiarize yourself with the various telemedicine resources on the implementation, utilization and/or expansion of telehealth with home patients at your practice.

- Engage patients in their care by educating them about the benefits of telemedicine and home treatment options that will empower them to be involved in the decision-making process about their health.
- Print and share patient telemedicine and home modality toolkit resources with patients and/or family member/caregivers.
- Answer questions that are within your scope but do not give medical advice to patients. Always refer him or her to their physician for questions and/or further evaluation for home dialysis or telemedicine utilization.



If I need assistance with the Stay Healthy, Stay Home Telehealth Toolkit, who do I contact?

Contact your ESRD Network for additional information and resources.

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network of New York

1979 Marcus Avenue, Lake Success, NY 11042 Patient Toll-Free: 800-238-3773 Main: 516-209-5578 Fax: 516-326-8929 Email: <u>esrdnetwork2@ipro.us</u> Web: <u>network2.esrd.ipro.org</u>

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