



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 Telenegith

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-to-use, 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 virial 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 HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) is providing flexibility for healthcare providers to reduce or waive cost-shoring 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

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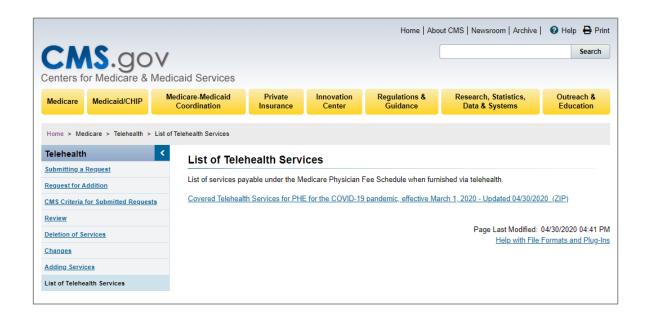
Toolkit at a Glance:

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.

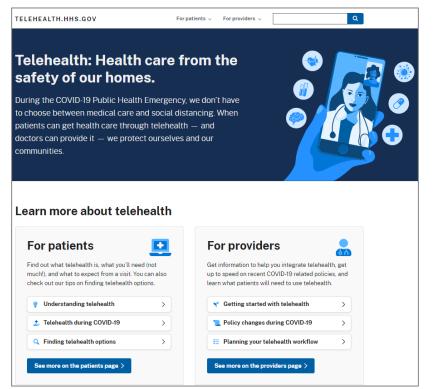




CMS - Excel List of Covered Medicare Telehealth Services and Billing Codes



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.



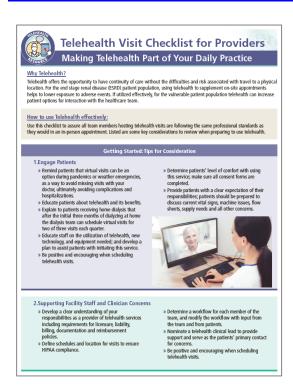


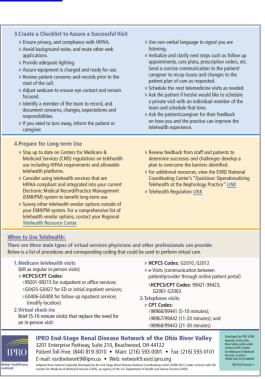
IPRO ESRD Network Program - Telehealth for the ESRD Provider





IPRO ESRD Network Program – Provider Checklist







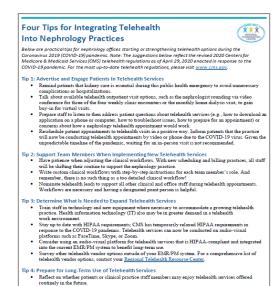


<u>IPRO ESRD Network Program – Do your patients know about home treatment options?</u>





ESRD NCC – Four Tips for Integrating Telehealth into Nephrology Practices



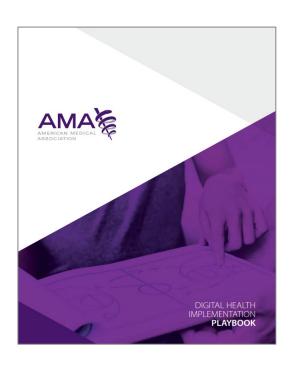
Explore what staffing or equipment resources would be needed to existin or expand telebalth. New equipment, such as remote patient monitoring kirs, could be used in future telebalth opportunities. To hear from the neighborlogy Chief Francical and Operations Officer who inspired these tight Listen to the ESR CCS Quickings on Operationshing Feelbachth or the Neighborlogy Proctice in https://poutub.fc/sxxxfilped/. IMPA 6 - Hind Neissen Prochability of the Operationshing Feelbachth or the Neighborlogy Proctice in https://poutub.fc/sxxxfilped/. IMPA 6 - Hind Neissen Prochability of Country of the Operationship feelback in Section 1 - April 1 -

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.



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.



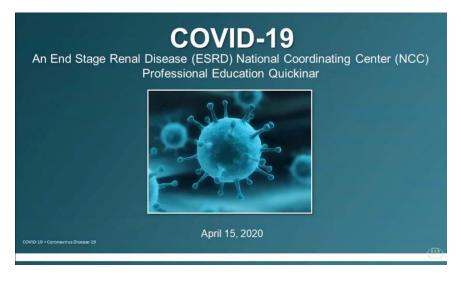


Provider Webinar – CMS-Medicare Learning Network (MLN): <u>Medicare Coverage</u> and Payment of Virtual Services



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> Nephrology Practice



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 the Ohio River Valley

3201 Enterprise Parkway, Suite 210, Beachwood, OH 44122

Patient Toll-Free: 844-819-3010

Main: 216-593-0001 Fax: 216-593-0101

Email: <u>esrdnetwork9@ipro.us</u> Web: network9.esrd.ipro.org