Telehealth Services

RURAL HEALTH FACT SHEET SERIES

Please note: The information in this publication applies only to the Medicare Fee-For-Service Program (also known as Original Medicare).

This publication provides the following information on calendar year (CY) 2014 Medicare telehealth services:

- Originating sites;
- Distant site practitioners;
- Telehealth services;
- Billing and payment for professional services furnished via telehealth;
- Billing and payment for the originating site facility fee;
- Resources; and
- Lists of helpful websites and Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators.

When “you” is used in this publication, we are referring to physicians or practitioners at the distant site.

Medicare pays for a limited number of Part B services furnished by a physician or practitioner to an eligible beneficiary via a telecommunications system. For eligible telehealth services, the use of a telecommunications system substitutes for an in-person encounter.

ORIGINATING SITES

An originating site is the location of an eligible Medicare beneficiary at the time the service being furnished via a telecommunications system occurs. Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for telehealth services only if they are presented from an originating site located in:

- A rural Health Professional Shortage Area, either located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or in a rural census tract, as determined by the Office of Rural Health Policy within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); or
- A county outside of a MSA.
You can access HRSA’s website tool to determine a potential originating site’s eligibility for Medicare telehealth payment at [http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth) on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Entities that participate in a Federal telemedicine demonstration project approved by (or receiving funding from) the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as of December 31, 2000, qualify as originating sites regardless of geographic location.

Each CY, the geographic eligibility of an originating site is established, based on the status of the area as of December 31st of the prior calendar year, and such eligibility continues for the full CY.

The originating sites authorized by law are:

- The offices of physicians or practitioners;
- Hospitals;
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAH);
- Rural Health Clinics;
- Federally Qualified Health Centers;
- Hospital-based or CAH-based Renal Dialysis Centers (including satellites);
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF); and
- Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC).

**Note:** Independent Renal Dialysis Facilities are not eligible originating sites.

**DISTANT SITE PRACTITIONERS**

Practitioners at the distant site who may furnish and receive payment for covered telehealth services (subject to State law) are:

- Physicians;
- Nurse practitioners (NP);
- Physician assistants (PA);
- Nurse-midwives;
- Clinical nurse specialists (CNS);
- Clinical psychologists (CP) and clinical social workers (CSW). CPs and CSWs cannot bill for psychiatric diagnostic interview examinations with medical services or medical evaluation and management services under Medicare. These practitioners may not bill or receive payment for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90792, 90833, 90836, and 90838; and
- Registered dietitians or nutrition professionals.

**TELEHEALTH SERVICES**

As a condition of payment, an interactive audio and video telecommunications system must be used that permits real-time communication between you, at the distant site, and the beneficiary, at the originating site. Asynchronous “store and forward” technology is permitted only in Federal telemedicine demonstration programs conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.

The chart on page 3 provides the CY 2014 list of Medicare telehealth services.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)/CPT Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial inpatient</td>
<td>HCPCS codes G0425 – G0427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Follow-up inpatient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs</td>
<td>HCPCS codes G0406 – G0408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office or other outpatient visits</td>
<td>CPT codes 99201 – 99215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent hospital care services, with the limitation of 1 telehealth visit every 3 days</td>
<td>CPT codes 99231 – 99233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent nursing facility care services, with the limitation of 1 telehealth visit every 30 days</td>
<td>CPT codes 99307 – 99310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and group kidney disease education services</td>
<td>HCPCS codes G0420 and G0421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and group diabetes self-management training services, with a minimum of 1 hour of in-person instruction to be furnished in the initial year training period to ensure effective injection training</td>
<td>HCPCS codes G0108 and G0109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and group health and behavior assessment and intervention</td>
<td>CPT codes 96150 – 96154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual psychotherapy</td>
<td>CPT codes 90832 – 90834 and 90836 – 90838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telehealth Pharmacologic Management</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination</td>
<td>CPT codes 90791 and 90792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)-related services included in the monthly capitation payment</td>
<td>CPT codes 90951, 90952, 90954, 90955, 90957, 90958, 90960, and 90961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and group medical nutrition therapy</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0270 and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CPT codes 97802 – 97804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurobehavioral status examination</td>
<td>CPT code 96116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking cessation services</td>
<td>HCPCS codes G0436 and G0437 and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CPT codes 99406 and 99407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured assessment and intervention services</td>
<td>HCPCS codes G0396 and G0397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual alcohol misuse screening, 15 minutes</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling for alcohol misuse, 15 minutes</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual depression screening, 15 minutes</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-intensity behavioral counseling to prevent sexually transmitted infection; face-to-face, individual, includes: education, skills training and guidance on how to change sexual behavior; performed semi-annually, 30 minutes</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual, face-to-face intensive behavioral therapy for cardiovascular disease, individual, 15 minutes</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes</td>
<td>HCPCS code G0447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional care management services with moderate medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 14 days of discharge) (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2014)</td>
<td>CPT code 99495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional care management services with high medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 7 days of discharge) (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2014)</td>
<td>CPT code 99496</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For ESRD-related services, at least one “hands on” visit (not telehealth) must be furnished each month to examine the vascular access site by a physician, NP, PA, or CNS.

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BILLING AND PAYMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FURNISHED VIA TELEHEALTH

You should submit claims for telehealth services using the appropriate CPT or HCPCS code for the professional service along with the telehealth modifier GT, "via interactive audio and video telecommunications systems" (for example, 99201 GT). By coding and billing the GT modifier with a covered telehealth procedure code, you are certifying that the beneficiary was present at an eligible originating site when the telehealth service was furnished. By coding and billing the GT modifier with a covered ESRD-related service telehealth code, you are certifying that one visit per month was furnished “hands on” to examine the vascular access site.

For Federal telemedicine demonstration programs conducted in Alaska or Hawaii, you should submit claims using the appropriate CPT or HCPCS code for the professional service along with the telehealth modifier GQ if telehealth services were performed “via an asynchronous telecommunications system” (for example, 99201 GQ). By using the GQ modifier, you are certifying that the asynchronous medical file was collected and transmitted to you at the distant site from a Federal telemedicine demonstration project conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.

You should bill the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for covered telehealth services. Medicare pays you the appropriate amount under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for telehealth services. When you are located in a CAH and have reassigned your billing rights to a CAH that has elected the Optional Payment Method, the CAH bills the MAC for telehealth services and the payment amount is 80 percent of the Medicare PFS for telehealth services.

BILLING AND PAYMENT FOR THE ORIGINATING SITE FACILITY FEE

Originating sites are paid an originating site facility fee for telehealth services as described by HCPCS code Q3014. You should bill the MAC for the originating site facility fee, which is a separately billable Part B payment.

Note: When a CMHC serves as an originating site, the originating site facility fee does not count toward the number of services used to determine payment for partial hospitalization services.
RESOURCES

The chart below provides telehealth services resource information.

**Telehealth Services Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For More Information About…</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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| Telehealth Services | [http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth) on the CMS website  
| Office of Rural Health Policy within Health Resources and Services Administration | [http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth) on the HRSA website |
| Medicare Information for Beneficiaries | [http://www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the CMS website |
HELPFUL WEBSITES
American Hospital Association Rural Health Care
http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/rural

Critical Access Hospitals Center
http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Critical-Access-Hospitals-Center.html

Disproportionate Share Hospital
http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/dsh.html

Federally Qualified Health Centers Center
http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Federally-Qualified-Health-Centers-FQHC-Center.html

Health Resources and Services Administration
http://www.hrsa.gov

Hospital Center
http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospital-Center.html

Medicare Learning Network®
http://go.cms.gov/MLNGenInfo

National Association of Community Health Centers
http://www.nachc.org

National Association of Rural Health Clinics
http://narhc.org

National Rural Health Association
http://www.ruralhealthweb.org

Physician Bonuses
http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses

Rural Assistance Center
http://www.raconline.org

Rural Health Clinics Center
http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Rural-Health Clinics-Center.html

Swing Bed Providers
http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/SwingBed.html

Telehealth
http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth

U.S. Census Bureau
http://www.census.gov

REGIONAL OFFICE RURAL HEALTH COORDINATORS
Below is a list of contact information for CMS Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators who provide technical, policy, and operational assistance on rural health issues.

Region I – Boston
Rick Hoover
Email: rick.hoover@hhs.gov
Telephone: (617) 565-1258
States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Region II – New York
Miechah Lefkowitz
Email: miechah.lefkowitz@hhs.gov
Telephone: (212) 616-2517
States: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands

Region III – Philadelphia
Patrick Hamilton
Email: patrick.hamilton@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (215) 861-4097
States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia

Region IV – Atlanta
Lana Dennis
Email: lana.dennis@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (404) 562-7379
States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

Region V – Chicago
Nicole Jacobson
Email: nicole.jacobson@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (312) 353-5737
States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

Region VI – Dallas
Kaleigh Emerson
Email: kaleigh.emerson@hhs.gov
Telephone: (214) 767-6444
States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Region VII – Kansas City
Claudia Odgers
Email: claudia.odgers@hhs.gov
Telephone: (816) 426-6524
States: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

Region VIII – Denver
Lyla Nichols
Email: lyla.nichols@hhs.gov
Telephone: (303) 844-6218
States: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

Region IX – San Francisco
Neal Logue
Email: neal.logue@hhs.gov
Telephone: (415) 744-3551
States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa

Region X – Seattle
Teresa Cumpton
Email: teresa.cumpton@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (206) 615-2391
States: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

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