

DHCFP Telehealth Policy Legislative Update

5/9/2016

The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) expanded its telehealth policy to all provider types for all services that can appropriately be delivered via telehealth, creating parity between in-person and telehealth-delivered services. The passage of AB 292 called for Nevada to expand telehealth services, addressing a serious need for access to care for Nevadans. The DHCFP responded with broad policy that encourages an innovative approach to providing health care services throughout the state, currently recognized as the most progressive telehealth policy in the nation. In addition to service and provider expansion, the location of the patient, known as the originating site, can be anywhere the patient is located. This can still be a provider's office, but also places like a patient's home through technology such as an iPad or Smartphone or home computer via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-compliant (HIPAA) platform at both locations. This addresses issues with distance, transportation, and home-bound patients.

The next step is to educate our provider network on the availability of telehealth and the options that go with it. HIPAA-compliant platforms for delivery of telehealth services are required, and these choices are expanding as the national trend is working toward making telehealth a safe and beneficial option for patients and their providers. Reimbursement from Nevada Medicaid for services delivered via telehealth requires providers (at the distant site) to add the two letter "GT" modifier to their service codes. This modifier helps identify the provided care as telehealth services. The location of the patient, known as the originating site, can bill Q3014 (telehealth originating site facility fee; no modifier) if that location is enrolled as a Nevada Medicaid provider. The distant site provider cannot bill for the originating site as these are two distinctly separate locations. Home-based locations do not qualify for the originating site fee. Any questions regarding telehealth policy and billing can be directed to Marti Coté (marti.cote@dhcfp.nv.gov), program specialist for Telehealth Services at the DHCFP.