



Medicaid Update

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Special Edition

COVID-19 Telephonic Communication Services

Effective for dates of service on or after March 13, 2020 during the current State of Emergency only, New York State Medicaid will reimburse telephonic evaluation and management services to members in cases where face-to-face visits may not be recommended and it is medically appropriate for the member to be evaluated and managed by telephone. This guidance is to support the policy that patients should be treated through telehealth including telephonically wherever possible to avoid member congregation with potentially sick patients. Telehealth will be covered for all appropriate services for all patients appropriate to treat through this modality. However, telephonic services are only to be rendered for the care of established patients or the legal guardian of an established patient.

Telephonic evaluation and management services must be provided by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or licensed midwife actively enrolled in fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) Plans.

If the telephone call follows a clinic/office visit performed and reported within the past seven calendar days for the same diagnosis, then the telephone services are considered part of the previous clinic/office visit and should not be billed separately.

However, if a patient face-to-face visit is not possible due to the State of Emergency, practitioners should assess if telephonic visiting is clinically appropriate to properly care for the patient. In such instances, those visits documented as clinically appropriate by the provider would be considered medically necessary for payment purposes. All other requirements in delivery of these services otherwise apply.

Clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), billing the PPS rate should bill telephonic evaluation and management services as ordered ambulatory.

Relevant CPT codes are:

- **“99441”**: Telephone evaluation and management service; 5-10 minutes of medical discussion
Fee: \$12.56
- **“99442”**: 11-20 minutes of medical discussion
Fee: \$23.48
- **“99443”**: 21-30 minutes of medical discussion
Fee: \$37.41

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Revised Billing Instructions and Medicaid Copayments for Telehealth Services

Effective immediately, all services delivered through telehealth whether related to delivery of a COVID-19 service or any other medical service (unrelated to COVID-19) are exempt from Medicaid copayments. Medicaid copayments are applicable to hospital outpatient, free-standing clinic (including FQHCs), and emergency department services. In order to have claims paid in full with no copayment deducted, institutional providers should report Type of Admission Code = “1”.

Questions:

- Medicaid FFS coverage and policy questions should be directed to the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP), Division of Program Development and Management at (518) 473–2160.
- MMC general coverage questions should be directed to the OHIP, Division of Health Plan Contracting and Oversight at: covques@health.ny.gov or (518) 473-1134.
- MMC reimbursement, billing, and/or documentation requirement questions should be directed to the enrollee’s MMC plan.
- FFS claim questions should be directed to the eMedNY Call Center at (800) 343–9000.

Provider Directory

Office of the Medicaid Inspector General:

For suspected fraud or abuse complaints/allegations, call 1-877-87FRAUD, (877) 873-7283, or visit www.omig.ny.gov.

Provider Manuals/Companion Guides, Enrollment Information/Forms/Training Schedules:

Please visit the eMedNY website at <https://www.emedny.org/>.

Providers wishing to listen to the current week's check/EFT amounts:

Please call (866) 307-5549 (available Thursday PM for one week for the current week's amount).

For questions about billing and performing MEVS transactions:

Please call the eMedNY Call Center at (800) 343-9000.

Provider Training:

To sign up for a provider seminar, please enroll online at <https://www.edmedny.org/training/index.aspx>. For individual training requests, call (800) 343-9000.

Beneficiary Eligibility:

Call the Touchtone Telephone Verification System at (800) 997-1111.

Medicaid Prescriber Education Program:

For current information on best practices in pharmacotherapy, please visit the following websites: http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/prescriber_education/presc-educationprog

<http://nypep.nysdoh.suny.edu/home>

eMedNY

For a number of services including: change of address, updating an enrollment file due to an ownership change, enrolling another NPI, or revalidating an existing enrollment please visit: <https://www.emedny.org/info/ProviderEnrollment/index.aspx> and choose the appropriate link based on provider type.

Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program:

Contact the New York Medicaid EHR Call Center at (877) 646-5410.

Comments and/or suggestions regarding this publication:

Please contact the editor, Georgia Wohnsen, at medicaidupdate@health.ny.gov.