

Public notice

OHA is submitting a State Plan Amendment to expand Medicaid coverage of telehealth and telephone services

Date: March 20, 2020

Contact: Jesse Anderson, State Plan manager

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is submitting an expedited State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to expand Medicaid coverage of telehealth and telephone services. Oregon is requesting a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2020 as it relates to reimbursement.

Background

OHA is expanding coverage of telehealth and telephone services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The expanded coverage aligns with:

- A new Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) guideline clarifying expanded coverage of synchronous audio and video, telephone, online (e.g., patient portal) services and provider-to-provider consultations for physical and behavioral health ([Guideline Note A5](#)), and
- HERC's [Statement of Intent 6](#), which removes barriers to telephone services.

The SPA will help maximize health care access, reduce barriers to care and align with HERC guidelines.

To reimburse providers for telehealth services at rates comparable to in-person services, OHA has assigned a higher Relative Value Unit weight to selected telehealth CPT codes, resulting in the increases listed below.

Code	Current rate	Increased rate
99441	\$9.86	\$16.04
99442	\$19.16	\$31.44
99443	\$28.12	\$51.97

The estimated state and federal fund impact for calendar year 2020 is \$300,208.

How to comment:

OHA welcomes public input; however, due to the urgent nature of this issue OHA will submit the SPA as soon as possible (no later than March 31, 2020). Please send written comments to jesse.anderson@dhsosha.state.or.us (fax 503-947-1119).

OHA will review and consider all comments received for possible changes to telehealth coverage once the urgent nature of this issue subsides.