Telehealth reimbursement updates for states

Policies related to reimbursement coverage for providing telehealth services during COVID-19 are changing on an almost daily basis for states. We’ve included state updates on our COVID-19 Resource page. The documents include state actions taken during the pandemic to increase patient access to medical care. Along with the state updates, you can also keep up to date with federal changes to policy. The new regulations at the federal level apply to Medicare and you can also view those on our resource page.

The Center for Connected Health Policy also has a series of informative videos that overview state actions and how state telehealth policy has had to change as it relates to COVID-19.

Also of note is the upcoming HTRC Webinar on May 5th. Robert Stiles, Program Manager, Department of Pediatrics at KU Medical Center will cover updates on federal and state policy and regulations related to the provision of telehealth services and also highlight opportunities under the CARES Act. You can register for the webinar, here.

Funding Opportunities
FCC ANNOUNCES COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM
New Program Will Provide $200 Million to Support Health Care Providers and Patients Across the Country During the Coronavirus Outbreak
The Federal Communications Commission’s Wireline Competition Bureau began accepting applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program beginning Monday, April 13, 2020. The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will provide $200 million in funding, appropriated by Congress as part of the CARES Act, to help health care providers furnish connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information and the dedicated application portal are available at: www.fcc.gov/covid19telehealth

USDA Announces Second Application Window for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program Funding
$72 Million Available to Help Rural Residents Gain Access to Health Care and Educational Opportunities
The USDA is opening a second application window for funding under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program, beginning April 14 and lasting through July 13, 2020. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. Information and Application materials are available at: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants.

Hospitals receive Emergency Oklahoma Universal Services Fund (OUSF) for Telemedicine bandwidth:
The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has developed a COVID-19 OUSF Emergency Response Process to get funds approved for bandwidth increases. Hospitals, Schools, and Libraries currently receiving funding should reach out to their service provider directly to request an increase in bandwidth during the designated emergency period. Healthcare providers, if this change puts your Federal funding in jeopardy, we are hereby committing to cover your services. This is a public safety matter and cannot be delayed.

Upon request from a hospital for increased bandwidth under this program, OUSF Service Providers (telecommunications carrier) should immediately submit the form provided in the link below to request immediate approval of bandwidth increases for eligible entities. https://www.occeweb.com/pu/OUSF/OUSF_COVID19.htm

EVENTS
HTRC Telehealth Webinar Series

Federal and State Telehealth Policy Update During COVID-19

May 5, 2020
12-1 p.m. CST

REGISTER NOW!

HTRC

HTRC Webinar Series:
May 5
12-1 p.m. CST

This session will provide an update on federal and state policy and regulations related to the provision of telehealth services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The session will be presented by Robert Stiles and will also highlight opportunities under the CARES Act and the federal response to COVID-19 to assist in the provision of telehealth services.

Robert Stiles has extensive experience in government at the state and local level including serving as the Director of the Kansas Primary Care Office. He has also worked at the local level in an executive role in the direct provision of health care services.

June 2nd Webinar: "Teledentistry Overview and Update" with Dr. Nathan Suter, DDS and Robert Stiles. Register here.

The Heartland Telehealth Resource Center will present a series of webinars on May 5, June 2, July 7 and August 4. Update will be provided on current regulation and policy changes in response to the COVID-19 emergency

There is no cost to participate in the series, but registration is required. CME and continuing education is available.

Future sessions will cover:
Veterans’ services
New and innovative technology
Nurse practitioners and PAs
State and national requirements update

REGISTER HERE
COVID-19 ECHOs

Missouri Telehealth Network COVID-19 ECHO will meet via Zoom videoconferencing every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Anyone interested in learning how to protect, diagnose and treat Missouri patients with COVID-19, as well as how to protect their overall community, are encouraged to join. A multidisciplinary expert team led by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams, MD, will share the latest developments,
answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants. Register and learn more here.

Oklahoma State University-Center for Health Sciences has launched a COVID-19 Oklahoma Update ECHO to keep healthcare providers updated as the situation changes. This ECHO will be held weekly every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 a.m. until further notice. Please register here.

COVID-19 Resources

You can access the resources, here. Please share with others who could benefit from the information. We will continue to add and update resources as they come available.

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