

State Medicaid Programs and Reimbursement for Telehealth

Number of states reimbursing for Telehealth services: 24

Number of states planning to implement reimbursement in the future: 4

All 24 states reimburse for some physician consultations via video teleconferencing. Nineteen reimburse for real-time consultations only, and 3 states explicitly specify that patient must be present. Five reimburse for both real-time and store-and-forward consultations. None reimburse for only store-and-forward consultations

The most common reimbursable services are medical and behavioral/mental health diagnostic consultations or treatment. Twenty-two states cover medical consultations or treatment and 12 cover psychological consultations or treatment. Home health is paid for in 2 states. One state program excludes behavioral/mental health.

Three of 24 states specify reimbursement only involving rural areas when the service is not available within a 30-mile radius of the patient's home.

Payment is made to a licensed physician or provider in all 24 states, and reimbursement is made in 23 of the 24 states at both hub and spoke site.

Billing requires the use of CPT codes, and/or modifiers. CPT codes alone are accepted in 2 of the 24 states; CPT codes plus GT (interactive method) or GQ (store and forward) modifiers from HCPCS are used in 15 states; and local codes or CPT plus TM modifier is required in 7 states.