

205.559 Requirements for Medicaid reimbursement to participating providers for telehealth consultations -- Reimbursement for rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and federally qualified health center look-alikes -- Audio-only encounters.

- (1) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services and any managed care organization with whom the Department for Medicaid Services contracts for the delivery of Medicaid services shall provide Medicaid reimbursement for covered telehealth services and telehealth consultations, if the telehealth service or telehealth consultation:
 - (a) Is provided by a Medicaid-participating practitioner, including those employed by a home health agency licensed pursuant to KRS Chapter 216, to a Medicaid recipient or another Medicaid-participating practitioner at a different physical location; and
 - (b) Meets all clinical, technology, and medical coding guidelines for recipient safety and appropriate delivery of services established by the Department for Medicaid Services or the provider's professional licensure board.
- (2) (a) For rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and federally qualified health center look-alikes, reimbursement for covered telehealth services and telehealth consultations shall:
 1. To the extent permitted under federal law, include an originating site fee in an amount equal to that which is permitted under 42 U.S.C. sec. 1395m for Medicare-participating providers if the Medicaid beneficiary who received the telehealth service or telehealth consultation was physically located at the rural health clinic, federally qualified health center, or federally qualified health center look-alike at the time of service or consultation delivery and the provider of the telehealth service or telehealth consultation is not employed by the rural health clinic, federally qualified health center, or federally qualified health center look-alike; or
 2. If the telehealth service or telehealth consultation provider is employed by the rural health clinic, federally qualified health center, or federally qualified health center look-alike, include a supplemental reimbursement paid by the Department for Medicaid Services in an amount equal to the difference between the actual reimbursement amount paid by a Medicaid managed care organization and the amount that would have been paid if reimbursement had been made directly by the department.
- (b) A request for reimbursement shall not be denied solely because:
 1. An in-person consultation between a Medicaid-participating practitioner and a patient did not occur; or
 2. A Medicaid-participating provider employed by a rural health clinic, federally qualified health center, or federally qualified health center look-alike was not physically located on the premises of the clinic or

health center when the telehealth service or telehealth consultation was provided.

- (c) Telehealth services and telehealth consultations shall not be reimbursable under this section if they are provided through the use of a facsimile machine, text, chat, or electronic mail unless the Department for Medicaid Services determines that telehealth can be provided via these modalities in ways that enhance recipient health and well-being and meet all clinical and technology guidelines for recipient safety and appropriate delivery of services.
- (3)
 - (a) A health-care facility that receives reimbursement under this section for consultations provided by a Medicaid-participating provider who practices in that facility and a health professional who obtains a consultation under this section shall establish quality-of-care protocols, which may include a requirement for an annual in-person or face-to-face consultation with a patient who receives telehealth services, and patient confidentiality guidelines to ensure that telehealth consultations meet all requirements and patient care standards as required by law.
 - (b) The Department for Medicaid Services and any managed care organization with whom the department contracts for the delivery of Medicaid services shall not deny reimbursement for telehealth services covered by this section based solely on quality-of-care protocols adopted by a health-care facility pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection.
 - (4) The cabinet shall not require a telehealth consultation if an in-person consultation with a Medicaid-participating provider is reasonably available where the patient resides, works, or attends school or if the patient prefers an in-person consultation.
 - (5) The cabinet shall request any waivers of federal laws or regulations that may be necessary to implement this section and KRS 205.5591.
 - (6) Medicaid-participating practitioners and home health agencies are strongly encouraged to use audio-only encounters as a mode of delivering telehealth services only when no other approved mode of delivering telehealth services is available.
 - (7) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Federally qualified health center" means the same as in 42 U.S.C. sec. 1396d;
 - (b) "Federally qualified health center look-alike" means an organization that meets all of the eligibility requirements of a federally qualified health center but does not receive federal grants issued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sec. 254b;
 - (c) "Originating site" means the site at which a Medicaid beneficiary is physically located at the time a telehealth service or telehealth consultation is provided; and
 - (d) "Rural health clinic" means the same as in 42 U.S.C. sec. 1395x.

Effective: June 29, 2021

History: Amended 2021 Ky. Acts ch. 67, sec. 7, effective June 29, 2021. -- Amended 2018 Ky. Acts ch. 187, sec. 3, effective July 1, 2019. -- Amended 2007 Ky. Acts ch. 24, sec. 26, effective June 26, 2007. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 99, sec. 233, effective June 20, 2005. -- Created 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 376, sec. 4, effective July 15,

2001.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/15/2001). Under 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 376, sec. 24(1), this statute takes effect "on July 15, 2001, or upon approval of any federal waivers, whichever first occurs." Because federal waivers were not approved, the effective date is July 15, 2001.