
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2019 Wisconsin Act 56 [2019 Senate Bill 380]

Coverage of Medical Assistance Services Provided Through Telehealth

2019 Wisconsin Act 56 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide reimbursement under the state Medical Assistance (MA) program for any benefit that is covered under MA, delivered by a certified MA provider, and provided through interactive telehealth.

The act also requires DHS to provide all of the following as a reimbursable benefit under the MA program:

- A consultation conducted through interactive telehealth between a certified provider and a MA recipient's provider.
- Remote patient monitoring of a MA recipient.
- Asynchronous telehealth service, also known as store-and-forward.
- Certain services covered under Medicare, including telehealth services as defined under federal law, remote physiologic monitoring, remote evaluation of prerecorded patient information, brief communication technology-based services, and care management services delivered through telehealth, for which the federal Department of Health and Human Services provides MA federal financial participation.
- Any other telehealth service specified by DHS, by rule.

DHS may exclude services by rule from MA reimbursement and may provide reimbursement, by rule, for certain services that are not typically considered telehealth services.

Also, under the act, DHS is prohibited from requiring a certified Medicaid provider that provides a reimbursable service under the act to obtain an additional certification or meet additional requirements solely because the service was delivered through telehealth, except that DHS may require, by rule, that the transmission of information through telehealth be of sufficient quality to be functionally equivalent to face-to-face contact. DHS may apply any requirement that is applicable to a covered service that is not provided through telehealth to any service provided through telehealth under the act. The act prohibits DHS from limiting coverage or reimbursement of a service provided through telehealth under the act based on the location of the MA recipient when the service is provided.

Effective date: November 27, 2019, except that DHS is required to provide the coverage and reimbursement as required by the act, other than reimbursement for any benefit that is covered under MA, delivered by a certified MA provider, and provided through interactive telehealth, on the earlier of either the first day of the 13th month beginning after the general effective date of the act or a date specified by DHS that is included in a notice submitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

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