COVID-19 and Telehealth Resources
as of March 24, 2020

From the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers

COVID-19 Telehealth Toolkit

A special document released to assist organizations implement telehealth during the COVID-19 outbreak.

NCTRC Webinar – Telehealth and COVID-19

YouTube recording and a download of presentation slides from this popular webinar held March 19.

From the Center for Connected Health Policy

TELEHEALTH COVERAGE POLICIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 TO DATE
Updated daily, as needed, by CCHP
A comprehensive, easy-to-understand review of federal policy adjustments, with links for more detail. Includes up-to-date information on Medicare fee-for-service, other Medicare and Medicaid policies including licensing, Medicare Advantage and Other Technology-Enabled Services, DEA, HIPAA, private payers, FQHCs/RHCs and state actions.

COVID-19 RELATED STATE ACTIONS
Listing of telehealth-related actions taken in individual states with links to source documentation (As of 3/23/2020, Montana was the only NRTRC state to modify state policies.)

Current State Laws & Reimbursement Policies (as of October 2019)
Searchable database by state that covers Medicaid reimbursement policies, private payer laws, and professional regulation / health & safety policies, with links to source documents.
CMS Fact Sheet: Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet
CMS FAQs: Medicare Frequently Asked Questions
Published on March 17, 2020, these two documents outline the flexibility added into Medicare’s telehealth services to facilitate the use of telehealth during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Patients outside rural areas and patients in their homes will be eligible for telehealth services. Telehealth visits during this time will not require a prior established relationship between provider and patients, and health care providers may reduce or waive patient cost-sharing requirements.

CMS General Telehealth and Telemedicine Provider Toolkit
CMS ESRD Provider Telehealth and Telemedicine Toolkit
Summary of electronic links to reliable sources of information regarding telehealth and telemedicine.

MLN Communication Technology Based Services and Payment for RHCs & FQHCs, January 2019
CMS expanded services utilizing technology to go beyond Medicare’s traditional telehealth program. These services, such as Virtual Check-ins, are not considered telehealth but which can utilize the phone or video.

HIPAA for Professionals: COVID-19 and HIPAA specific to Telehealth

OCR: FAQs on Telehealth and HIPAA during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency
Notice of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth remote communication during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency (hint: click the site’s print button for a readable version)
The federal Office of Civil Rights has relaxed some HIPAA requirements to allow video technologies that do not fully comply with HIPAA rules including non-public facing “popular” video products such as Facetime and Skype. These two documents provide details on these temporary policies.

Federation of State Medical Boards

States Waiving Licensure Requirements/Renewals in Response to COVID-19
Details individual state modifications of professional licensure requirements with links.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

COVID-10 Public Health Emergency Response and 42 CFR Part 2 Guidance
Flexibility regarding the disclosure of patient information during a medical emergency.

Considerations for the Care and Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders in the COVID-19 Epidemic: March 20, 2020
SAMHSA strongly recommends the use of telehealth and/or telephonic services to provide evaluation and treatment of patients.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Diversion Control Division

DEA COVID-19 Information Page
See section on Telemedicine which specifies guidance for the use of telehealth and the conditions for prescribing schedule II-V controlled substances to patients for whom DEA-registered practitioners have not conducted an in-person medical evaluation.

Use of Telemedicine While Providing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
DEA Guidance published May 15, 2018