

Ohio Telehealth Reimbursement Summary

Reimbursement for telehealth services is dependent upon the type of insurance in which the patient is enrolled: Medicare, Medicaid, or Commercial / Private Insurance.

Medicare

Medicare is a federal program, so its program conditions of payment are the same across the United States. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sets federal guidelines for telehealth reimbursement for Medicare patients. Medicare pays for certain provider types and certain outpatient professional services (CPT codes) for patients accessing care from sites in rural counties and HPSAs in rural census tracts.

The UMTRC has created a Medicare Telehealth Reimbursement Summary.

See: <http://www.umtrc.org/resources/payers-reimbursement/medicare-telehealth-reimbursement-summary/?query=category.eq.Payers%20Reimbursement&back=Resources>

Ohio Law and Definitions

Each state has its own law(s) that define telehealth and/or telemedicine.

Ohio Telemedicine/Telehealth Definition

“The practice of telemedicine means the practice of medicine in this state through the use of any communication, including oral, written, or electronic communication, by a physician located outside this state.”

Source: [*OH Revised Code Annotated, 4731.296.*](#)

"Telehealth service means a health care service delivered to a patient through the use of interactive audio, video, or other telecommunications or electronic technology from a site other than the site where the patient is located."

Source: [*OH Revised Code Annotated, Sec. 5164.94.*](#)

Legislation for Online Prescribing in Ohio (Revised 3/23/2017)

Synopsis: Physicians shall not prescribe, furnish or provide any controlled substance to a person on whom the physician has never conducted a physical examination unless certain conditions have been met. These conditions include establishment of the patient’s identity, a remote examination, informed consent, creation of a medical record, contact

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with the patient's primary care physician, appropriate medical diagnoses, documentation and treatment plan, a follow-up plan, and appropriate technology that is sufficient for the physician to conduct all steps in this paragraph as if the medical evaluation occurred in an in-person visit.

A physician may prescribe, furnish or provide any controlled substance to a person on whom the physician has not conducted a physical examination and who is at a location remote from the physician in any of the following situations: The person is an active patient of an Ohio licensed physician or other health care provider who is a colleague of the physician and the drugs are provided pursuant to an on call or cross coverage arrangement between them. The patient must be physically located in a hospital or clinic registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The physician must be operating inside their normal scope of practice and by an Ohio licensed physician or healthcare provider registered with the DEA to provide controlled substances in Ohio.

Other conditions apply. *Source:* [OH Admin. Code 4731-11-09](#)

Ohio Medicaid

Each state has its own unique Medicaid program. The Ohio Department of Medicaid began reimbursing for telehealth services effective 1/02/2015, per the state language above. The Ohio Medicaid program issued a Telemedicine Billing Guidance in December 2016, which can be found here:

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Resources/Publications/Guidance/BillingInstructions/TelemedicineBillingGuidance.pdf>

Rule 4731-11-09 FAQs:

The Ohio Medical Board published a five-page document of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in October 2017; the document is addressed to Ohio-based physicians and physician assistants and serves as a baseline guidance not only for prescribing via telemedicine but also for delivering any service remotely. The document can be found here: <https://goo.gl/MkB8AP>

Ohio Medicaid Reimbursement Fee Schedule

The Ohio Department of Medicaid reimburses according to its fee schedule, which is posted on its website at:

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/PROVIDERS/FeeScheduleandRates/SchedulesandRates.aspx>

Private Payer

Each state is different, even within the same company, like Anthem, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or United that serve multiple states in the United States.

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There is no requirement for commercial / private insurance payers to reimburse for telemedicine/telehealth services in Ohio. Reimbursement is based on each benefit plan's provisions for coverage.

Additional Information on Telehealth Policy can be found at the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center's website at: <http://www.cchpca.org/state-laws-and-reimbursement-policies>

Additional Ohio Legislation

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers

“Telehealth means the use of electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health-related information and healthcare services, including, but not limited to physical therapy related information and services, over large and small distances.”

Source: [OH Admin. Code 4755-27-01; 2/04/2019](#)

Speech Language Pathology and Audiology

Telehealth means the use of telecommunications and information technologies for the exchange of information from one site to another for the provision of audiology or speech-language pathology services to an individual from a provider through hardwire or internet connection.

Source: [OH Admin. Code 4753-2-01 Effective 7/01/2013; due for review 07/01/2018](#)

Ohio State Law Cross-State Licensing (Revised 9/29/2017)

Ohio issues telemedicine certificates that allow the holder to engage in the practices of telemedicine in the state. Providers with telemedicine certificates cannot practice in OH without a special activity certificate.

Source: [OH Revised Code Annotated, Sec. 4731.296\(C\)](#).