

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



## Telehealth Services

### RURAL HEALTH FACT SHEET SERIES

**Please note:** The information in this publication applies only to the Medicare Fee-For-Service Program (also known as Original Medicare).

This publication provides the following information on calendar year (CY) 2015 Medicare telehealth services:

- ❖ Originating sites;
- ❖ Distant site practitioners;
- ❖ Telehealth services;
- ❖ Billing and payment for professional services furnished via telehealth;
- ❖ Billing and payment for the originating site facility fee;
- ❖ Resources; and
- ❖ Lists of helpful websites and Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators.

When “you” is used in this publication, we are referring to physicians or practitioners at the distant site.

Medicare pays for a limited number of Part B services furnished by a physician or practitioner to an eligible beneficiary via a telecommunications system. For eligible telehealth services, the use of a telecommunications system substitutes for an in-person encounter.



### ORIGINATING SITES

An originating site is the location of an eligible Medicare beneficiary at the time the service furnished via a telecommunications system occurs. Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for telehealth services only if they are presented from an originating site located in:

- ❖ A rural Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) located either outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or in a rural census tract; or
- ❖ A county outside of a MSA.

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The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) determines HPSAs, and the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau determines MSAs. You can access HRSA's website tool to determine a potential originating site's eligibility for Medicare telehealth payment at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Entities that participate in a Federal telemedicine demonstration project approved by (or receiving funding from) the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as of December 31, 2000, qualify as originating sites regardless of geographic location.

Each CY, the geographic eligibility of an originating site is established based on the status of the area as of December 31st of the prior calendar year, and such eligibility continues for the full CY.

The originating sites authorized by law are:

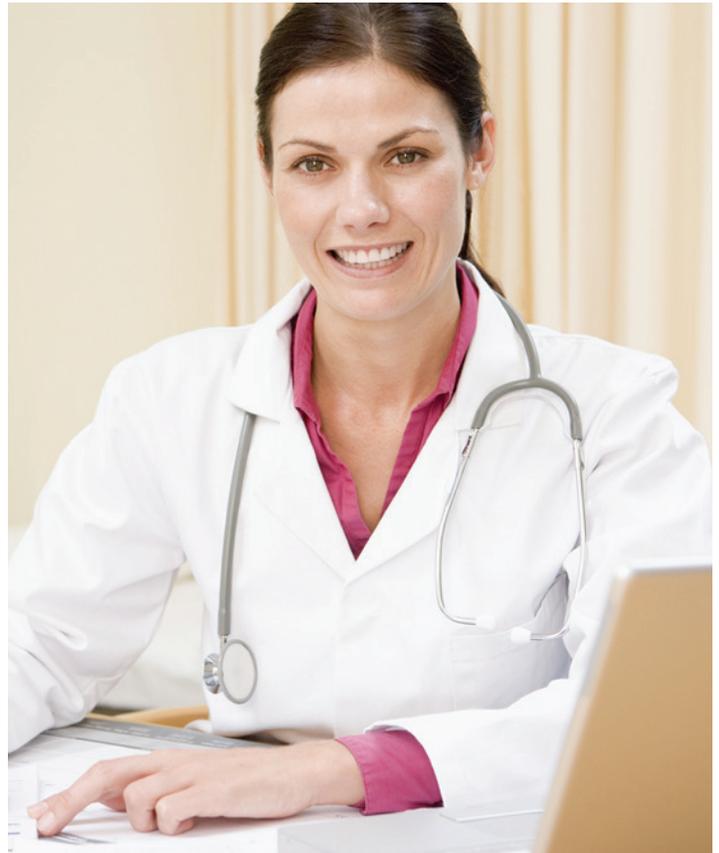
- ❖ The offices of physicians or practitioners;
- ❖ Hospitals;
- ❖ Critical Access Hospitals (CAH);
- ❖ Rural Health Clinics;
- ❖ Federally Qualified Health Centers;
- ❖ Hospital-based or CAH-based Renal Dialysis Centers (including satellites);
- ❖ Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF); and
- ❖ Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC).

**Note:** Independent Renal Dialysis Facilities are not eligible originating sites.

## DISTANT SITE PRACTITIONERS

Practitioners at the distant site who may furnish and receive payment for covered telehealth services (subject to State law) are:

- ❖ Physicians;
- ❖ Nurse practitioners (NP);
- ❖ Physician assistants (PA);
- ❖ Nurse-midwives;
- ❖ Clinical nurse specialists (CNS);
- ❖ Certified registered nurse anesthetists;



- ❖ Clinical psychologists (CP) and clinical social workers (CSW). CPs and CSWs cannot bill for psychiatric diagnostic interview examinations with medical services or medical evaluation and management services under Medicare. These practitioners may not bill or receive payment for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90792, 90833, 90836, and 90838; and
- ❖ Registered dietitians or nutrition professionals.

## TELEHEALTH SERVICES

As a condition of payment, you must use an interactive audio and video telecommunications system that permits real-time communication between you, at the distant site, and the beneficiary, at the originating site. Asynchronous "store and forward" technology is permitted only in Federal telemedicine demonstration programs conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.

The chart on pages 3 and 4 provides the CY 2015 list of Medicare telehealth services.

## CY 2015 Medicare Telehealth Services

Service	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)/CPT Code
Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial inpatient	HCPCS codes G0425–G0427
Follow-up inpatient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs	HCPCS codes G0406–G0408
Office or other outpatient visits	CPT codes 99201–99215
Subsequent hospital care services, with the limitation of 1 telehealth visit every 3 days	CPT codes 99231–99233
Subsequent nursing facility care services, with the limitation of 1 telehealth visit every 30 days	CPT codes 99307–99310
Individual and group kidney disease education services	HCPCS codes G0420 and G0421
Individual and group diabetes self-management training services, with a minimum of 1 hour of in-person instruction to be furnished in the initial year training period to ensure effective injection training	HCPCS codes G0108 and G0109
Individual and group health and behavior assessment and intervention	CPT codes 96150–96154
Individual psychotherapy	CPT codes 90832–90834 and 90836–90838
Telehealth Pharmacologic Management	HCPCS code G0459
Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination	CPT codes 90791 and 90792
End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)-related services included in the monthly capitation payment	CPT codes 90951, 90952, 90954, 90955, 90957, 90958, 90960, and 90961
Individual and group medical nutrition therapy	HCPCS code G0270 and CPT codes 97802–97804
Neurobehavioral status examination	CPT code 96116
Smoking cessation services	HCPCS codes G0436 and G0437 and CPT codes 99406 and 99407
Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured assessment and intervention services	HCPCS codes G0396 and G0397
Annual alcohol misuse screening, 15 minutes	HCPCS code G0442
Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling for alcohol misuse, 15 minutes	HCPCS code G0443
Annual depression screening, 15 minutes	HCPCS code G0444
High-intensity behavioral counseling to prevent sexually transmitted infection; face-to-face, individual, includes: education, skills training and guidance on how to change sexual behavior; performed semi-annually, 30 minutes	HCPCS code G0445
Annual, face-to-face intensive behavioral therapy for cardiovascular disease, individual, 15 minutes	HCPCS code G0446
Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes	HCPCS code G0447
Transitional care management services with moderate medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 14 days of discharge)	CPT code 99495
Transitional care management services with high medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 7 days of discharge)	CPT code 99496
Psychoanalysis (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	CPT codes 90845
Family psychotherapy (without the patient present) (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	CPT code 90846

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## CY 2015 Medicare Telehealth Services (cont.)

Service	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)/CPT Code
Family psychotherapy (conjoint psychotherapy) (with patient present) (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	CPT code 90847
Prolonged service in the office or other outpatient setting requiring direct patient contact beyond the usual service; first hour (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	CPT code 99354
Prolonged service in the office or other outpatient setting requiring direct patient contact beyond the usual service; each additional 30 minutes (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	CPT code 99355
Annual Wellness Visit, includes a personalized prevention plan of service (PPPS) first visit (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	HCPCS code G0438
Annual Wellness Visit, includes a personalized prevention plan of service (PPPS) subsequent visit (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2015)	HCPCS code G0439

For ESRD-related services, a physician, NP, PA, or CNS must furnish at least one “hands on” visit (not telehealth) each month to examine the vascular access site.

### BILLING AND PAYMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FURNISHED VIA TELEHEALTH

You should submit claims for telehealth services using the appropriate CPT or HCPCS code for the professional service along with the telehealth modifier GT, “via interactive audio and video telecommunications systems” (for example, 99201 GT). By coding and billing the GT modifier with a covered telehealth procedure code, you are certifying that the beneficiary was present at an eligible originating site when you furnished the telehealth service. By coding and billing the GT modifier with a covered ESRD-related service telehealth code, you are certifying that you furnished one “hands on” visit per month to examine the vascular access site.

For Federal telemedicine demonstration programs conducted in Alaska or Hawaii, you should submit claims using the appropriate CPT or HCPCS code for the professional service along with the telehealth modifier GQ if you performed telehealth services “via an asynchronous telecommunications system” (for example, 99201 GQ). By using the GQ modifier, you are certifying that the asynchronous medical file was collected and transmitted to you at the distant site from a Federal telemedicine demonstration project conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.

You should bill the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for covered telehealth services. Medicare pays you the appropriate amount under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for telehealth services. When you are located in a CAH and have reassigned your billing rights to a CAH that has elected the Optional Payment Method, the CAH bills the MAC for telehealth services and the payment amount is 80 percent of the Medicare PFS for telehealth services.

### BILLING AND PAYMENT FOR THE ORIGINATING SITE FACILITY FEE

Originating sites are paid an originating site facility fee for telehealth services as described by HCPCS code Q3014. You should bill the MAC for the originating site facility fee, which is a separately billable Part B payment.

**Note:** When a CMHC serves as an originating site, the originating site facility fee does not count toward the number of services used to determine payment for partial hospitalization services.

## RESOURCES

The chart below provides telehealth services resource information.

### Telehealth Services Resources

For More Information About...	Resource
Telehealth Services	<p><a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth</a> on the CMS website</p> <p>Chapter 15 of the “Medicare Benefit Policy Manual” (Publication 100-02) located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p> <p>Chapter 12 of the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual” (Publication 100-04) located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p>
Health Professional Shortage Areas	<p>Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) publication titled “Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Physician Bonus, HPSA Surgical Incentive Payment, and Primary Care Incentive Payment Programs” located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/HPSAfctsht.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/HPSAfctsht.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p>
All Available MLN Products	<p>“MLN Catalog” located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf</a> on the CMS website or scan the Quick Response (QR) code on the right</p> 
Provider-Specific Medicare Information	<p>MLN publication titled “MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources” located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p>
Medicare Information for Beneficiaries	<p><a href="http://www.medicare.gov">http://www.medicare.gov</a> on the CMS website</p>



## HELPFUL WEBSITES

### American Hospital Association Rural Health Care

<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/rural>

### Critical Access Hospitals Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Critical-Access-Hospitals-Center.html>

### Disproportionate Share Hospital

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/dsh.html>

### Federally Qualified Health Centers Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Federally-Qualified-Health-Centers-FQHC-Center.html>

### Health Resources and Services Administration

<http://www.hrsa.gov>

### Hospital Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospital-Center.html>

### Medicare Learning Network®

<http://go.cms.gov/MLNGenInfo>

### National Association of Community Health Centers

<http://www.nachc.org>

### National Association of Rural Health Clinics

<http://narhc.org>

### National Rural Health Association

<http://www.ruralhealthweb.org>

### Rural Assistance Center

<http://www.raconline.org>

### Rural Health Clinics Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Rural-Health-Clinics-Center.html>

### Swing Bed Providers

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/SwingBed.html>

### Telehealth

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth>

### U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>

## REGIONAL OFFICE RURAL HEALTH COORDINATORS

To find contact information for CMS Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators who provide technical, policy, and operational assistance on rural health issues, refer to <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/Downloads/CMSRuralHealthCoordinators.pdf> on the CMS website.



This fact sheet was current at the time it was published or uploaded onto the web. Medicare policy changes frequently so links to the source documents have been provided within the document for your reference.

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