



100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762  
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

April 4, 2020

## **Update to COVID-19 Guidance for Substance Use Disorder Telehealth Services**

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication during this difficult time as we all struggle to keep valuable substance use disorder services accessible and safe for those in need and the staff who provide them. At this time we are providing an update to the guidelines for billing telehealth services posted by IDHS/SUPR on March 28, 2020 at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123240>. During the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation, telehealth has been approved for Medicaid reimbursement through the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). This change is effective March 9, 2020 for the services specified herein and this update provides the billing requirements for Medicaid reimbursement for services delivered via telehealth. Please note that this change has been made in response to the current COVID-19 crisis and is effective only during this time period. After this emergency period, IDHS/SUPR will follow-up with guidance for the on-going implementation of telehealth services.

Medicaid billing requirements are as follows:

1. Download the update of the DARTS software dated April 3, 2020:  
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=67043>
2. For program numbers '43' (Level 1), '44' (Level 2) and '48' (Assessment), the following services and corresponding activity codes are billable to Medicaid for telehealth services:
  - 01 - Individual
  - 04 - Continued Stay Review and Discharge Planning
  - 05 - Treatment Planning
  - 11 - Psychiatric Evaluation
  - 12 - Medication Monitoring
  - 70 - Admission Assessment
  - 71 - Discharge Assessment



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3. On the "Services Reporting Screen-Hourly", indicate "DM" as the Funding Indicator and indicate "Yes" in the "Telehealth" field. This will allow one of the above activity codes to be used.
4. Guidelines for billing telehealth services to Managed Care Organizations (MCO) can be obtained at: [https://iamhp.net/resources/Documents/4-2%20IAMHP%20COVID-19%20Telehealth%20Recommendations\\_FINAL%20\(002\).pdf](https://iamhp.net/resources/Documents/4-2%20IAMHP%20COVID-19%20Telehealth%20Recommendations_FINAL%20(002).pdf)

Substance use disorder intervention and treatment telehealth services to Illinois residents are only authorized by an IDHS/SUPR license and permission, preferably in writing, must be obtained from the client/patient prior to delivery of such services. Please note that group counseling via telehealth is not reimbursable through Medicaid. To accommodate this exclusion, **during the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation only**, any Medicaid-eligible patient who has been assessed as needing group counseling services can bill these to the IDHS/SUPR contract.

At this time we also encourage you to review the recent Smart Alert posted at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123132> with attachments that describe revised billing procedures and a "Request for Information, Expenditures and Funding Increase Request" form. **We have extended the timeframe for submission of this form until April 15, 2020.** This information is critical for IDHS/SUPR and will be of great assistance as we plan for the remainder of this fiscal year and for FY2021.

Additional guidance regarding telehealth in general can be located in:

The SUPR Contractual Policy Manual:

[http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By Division/OASA/2020/SUPR\\_Contractual Policy Manual for FY 2020.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By%20Division/OASA/2020/SUPR_Contractual_Policy_Manual_for_FY_2020.pdf)

SUPR Exceptions during the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation:

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123257>



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Administrative Rule 140:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/03202020TelehealthAmendments89140RGE.pdf>

The HFS Provider Notice regarding exceptions:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn200320b.aspx>

Please contact [jayne.antonacci@illinois.gov](mailto:jayne.antonacci@illinois.gov) with questions regarding Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth and, as always, direct any other questions to [DoIT.SUPRHelp@Illinois.gov](mailto:DoIT.SUPRHelp@Illinois.gov).

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep people safe during these unprecedented times. For DHS specific information about coronavirus, visit <http://dhs.illinois.gov/coronavirus> and for statewide information on coronavirus, visit <http://CoronaVirus.Illinois.Gov>.

Sincerely,

Danielle Kirby  
Director  
Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

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