

MEMORANDUM (DMS-02)

To: Behavioral Health Providers

From: Division of Medical Services (DMS)

Date: March 18, 2020

Re: Telemedicine Requirements for certain Behavioral Health Providers during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

As you know, the Governor declared a public health emergency on March 12, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Arkansas. In response to this declaration and the need for social distancing, DMS is suspending the rule related to originating site requirements for certain behavioral health providers to provide certain counseling services. By suspending this rule, these licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to continue to provide critical services to established patients while they remain in their homes. Any technology deemed appropriate may be used, including telephones, but technology must utilize direct communication that takes place in real-time.

The rule will be suspended for thirty (30) days. The suspension may be extended for additional thirty-day periods throughout the declaration of emergency.

Patients receiving services from the following types of licensed providers enrolled with Medicaid do not have to go to an originating site (provider facility) to receive telemedicine services:

- Licensed Psychologists
- Licensed Professional Counselors
- (LPCs)Licensed Associate Counselors (LACs)
- Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (LAMFTs)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs)
- Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs)

Only the following services may be billed:

- Individual Behavioral Health Counseling
 - 90832, U4, GT
 - 90834, U4, GT
 - 90837, U4, GT
- Psychoeducation (H2027, U4, GT)

To bill for these services, please use Place of Service "02." **The relaxed requirement for originating site will be available for dates of service March 18, 2020 and forward.**

Diagnostic services cannot be provided when the beneficiary is not in a separate originating provider facility.

To ensure quality and consistency of care to Medicaid beneficiaries, DMS will coordinate with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) to conduct retrospective reviews and audits of

telemedicine services during this time. Please keep all records of services as required by Medicaid OBH billing and telemedicine rules.