## **DOCUMENTATION**

## **Provider Documentation**

- Follow same requirements as face to face to meet CPT standards for coding – remember SOAP notes!
- Do not utilize telemedicine as email! Always remember that the information you send/receive becomes part of the patient's medical record!
- As with all medical records, it is important to clarify the encounter so that coders aren't making judgment calls (don't assume anything)!

## REIMBURSMENT

### **Telemedicine Modifiers**

HCPCs Level II Modifiers

GT – Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems

GQ – Via asynchronous telecommunications system

#### **Covered TM Services - Medicare**

Consultations

CPT 99241 - 99275

Office or other outpatient visits

CPT 99201 - 99215

Follow-up inpatient telehealth consultations

G0406 - G0408

## Covered Behavioral/Mental Health Services - Medicare

Individual psychotherapy

CPT 90804 - 90809

Pharmacologic management

CPT 90862

Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination

CPT 90801

#### **Covered ESRD Services - Medicare**

 End stage renal disease related services HCPCs codes:

G0308 - G0309

G0311 – G0312

G0314 - G0315

G0317 – G0318

## Covered Nutrition Services - Medicare

Individual Medical Nutrition Therapy

**HCPCs** code:

G0270

CPT:

97802 - 97803

## Covered Neurologic Service - Medicare

Neurobehavioral status exam

CPT:

96116

## Four R's of Consultations

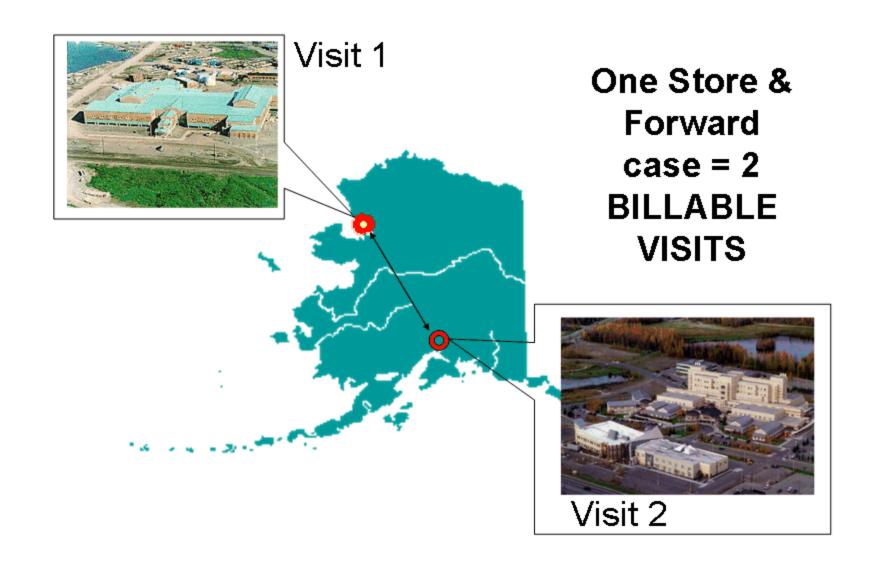
- 1. Requesting a consult
- 2. Reason for the request
- 3. Rendering an opinion
- 4. Reporting back to the requesting provider

## STORE & FORWARD EXAMPLES

Alaska and Hawaii only

## **Exception**

 In Alaska and Hawaii, the Federal Telemedicine Demonstration Program permits Medicare reimbursement when Store and Forward technology is used



Patient is seen by a nurse practitioner at Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue for a rash.

The nurse practitioner would like a second opinion on how to treat the rash. She sends three images of the rash with a request for a consult with a dermatologist at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

- S: Patient presents today with chief complaint of red, itchy rash on scalp for the past five days and is worsening.
- O: Exam scalp is red, bleeding in some areas.
   Patient has been scratching a lot. The patient does not have a fever. Took 3 photographs of the rash.
   Pt has no history of skin problems.
- A: Possible dermatitis
- P: Request a telemedicine consult

- Problem focused exam
- Problem focused history
- Straightforward medical decision making
- Established patient
  - 99212 Office or other outpatient visit

1500

99212 for faceto-face visit

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No telemedicine modifier required this visit happens regardless telemedicine

The dermatologist receives the case from the nurse practitioner via store and forward and he documents the following:

- 1. Request for consult from the ANP
- 2. Reason for the request the ANP cannot identify the etiology of the rash
- 3. After reviewing the images and the HPI he renders his opinion that the rash is seborrheic dermatitis of scalp complicated by scratching and suggests using a medicated shampoo
- 4. Reports his findings in writing back to the ANP

- Problem focused history (I reviewed the history)
- Problem focused exam (I reviewed the images)
- Straightforward medical decision making
   99241 Office Consultation

1500

Consult

99241

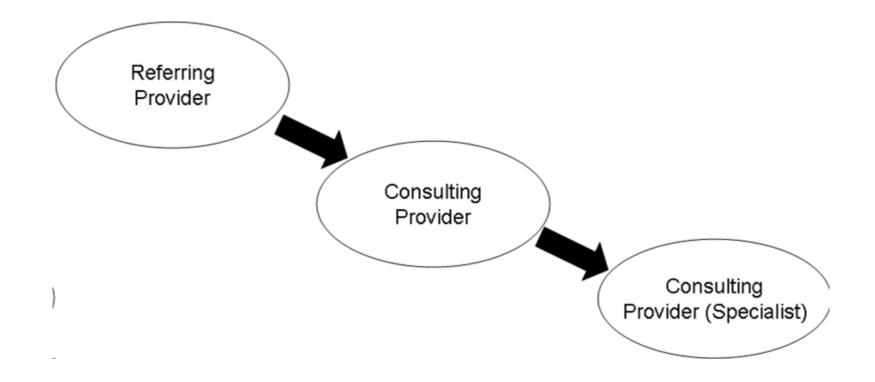
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Modifier for Store and **Forward** (this visit does not happen without TM)

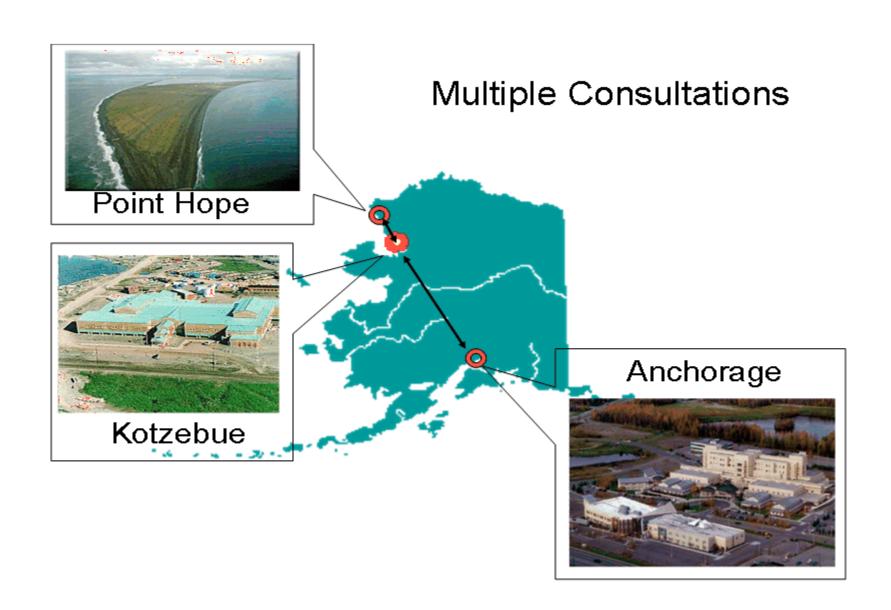
20

## **Multiple Consultation Roles**

Store-and-Forward Mode of Delivery only



MEDICAID 21

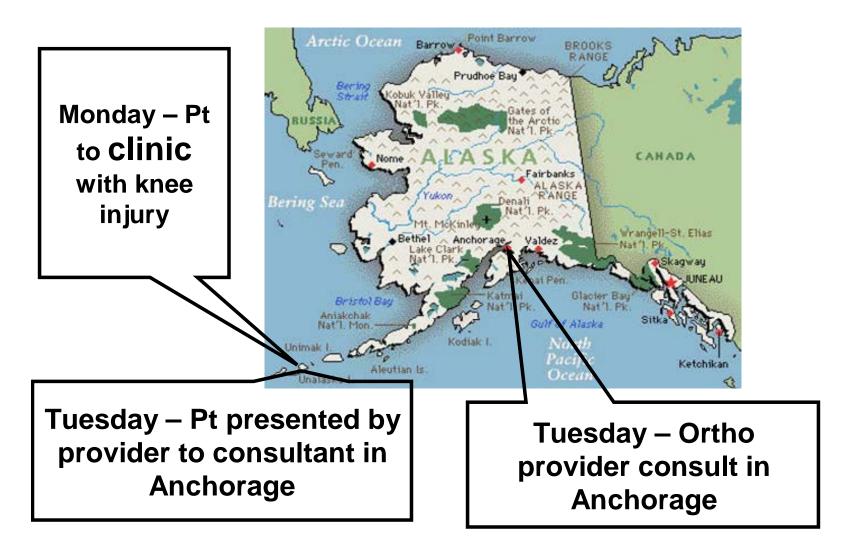


## Telemedicine for Dental Providers - Medicaid

- Store and Forward Application (sending x-ray image) to a Dentist for interpretation is currently reimbursed
- Live (interactive) consults by the distant site dentist can be reimbursed as if face to face
- Presenting providers use CDT-4 code D0140
  - Limited Exam for reimbursement
- Use your standard dental claim form
- There are NO telemedicine dental modifiers

## **INTERACTIVE EXAMPLE**

## **Example of Presenting Provider**



 Nurse Practitioner sees a patient who presents to the clinic on Monday with knee pain following an accident this morning in a crab processing plant in Dutch Harbor. He complains of severe knee pain. The ANP notes swelling of the knee, orders an x-ray, which is inconclusive. She requests a consultation from an orthopedic surgeon at ANMC in Anchorage. The surgeon is not available until tomorrow.

- Problem focused exam
- Problem focused history
- Straightforward medical decision making

**Established Patient** 

99212 - Office visit

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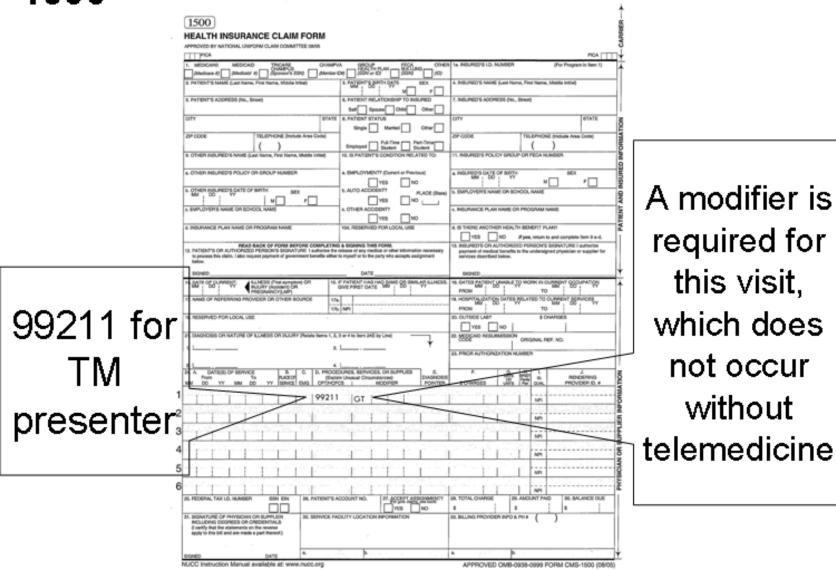
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NUCC Instruction Manual available at: www.nucc.org

No telemedicine modifier required this visit happens regardless telemedicine

APPROVED OMB-0938-0999 FORM CMS-1500 (08/05)

 The patient returns to the clinic and a different nurse practitioner presents the patient to the orthopedic surgeon in Anchorage for consultation. She does not perform exam or review history since that was accomplished the previous day.

This visit meets the criteria for 99211 – Office Visit Established Patient 

- The orthopedic surgeon in Anchorage sees the patient from his office. He agrees with the nurse practitioner that until the swelling decreases, no further treatment is necessary.
- He documents:
  - Request for consult from NP
  - Reason for request
  - Rendering opinion
  - Reports back to NP

This visit meets the criteria for:

99241 - Consultation

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1500			
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NUCC Instruction Manual available at: www.nucc.org

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# **Exclusions to Required Modifiers**

- Currently accepted practices within an industry not affected
  - Example: teleradiology consults will not need to use telemedicine modifiers GT and GQ; these providers should continue to use modifiers -26 (Professional Component) and TC (Technical Component)

MEDICAID 35

# REIMBURSEMENT – ORIGINATING SITE

- The originating site receives a facility fee equal to 80% of the lesser of the actual charge or \$23.72 (2009)
- HCPCS code Q3014 Telehealth Originating Site Facility Fee
- Payments made to a distant site practitioner (including deductible and coinsurance) may not be shared with the originating site.
- Type of Service 9 other items and services

## **Telehealth Transmission**

- T1014 Telehealth transmission, per minute
- Maximum of 90 minutes per day same recipient, same provider

1 unit = 1 minute

site

Both originating site and distant

## **COMMERCIAL PAYORS**

## **Commercial Payors**

- Many private payors are covering telemedicine
- Make certain the payor is aware that they are paying a telemedicine delivery (modifiers)
- Check policy guidelines for any specific telemedicine guidelines

## **Questions?**

Cheryl A. Skiffington, CCA, CPC **PFS Consultant** Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium 4831 Old Seward Hwy, Suite 107 Anchorage, AK 99503 cskiffington@anthc.org 907.729.2902