

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) 2014 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 being 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, either located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or in a rural census tract, as determined by the Office of Rural Health Policy within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); or
- ❖ A county outside of a MSA.

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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);
- ❖ 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, an interactive audio and video telecommunications system must be used 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 page 3 provides the CY 2014 list of Medicare telehealth services.

## CY 2014 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) (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2014)	CPT code 99495
Transitional care management services with high medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 7 days of discharge) (effective for services furnished on and after January 1, 2014)	CPT code 99496

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

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## 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 the telehealth service was furnished. By coding and billing the GT modifier with a covered ESRD-related service telehealth code, you are certifying that one visit per month was furnished “hands on” 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 telehealth services were performed “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.




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## 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/HPSAfactsht.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/HPSAfactsht.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p>
Office of Rural Health Policy within Health Resources and Services Administration	<p><a href="http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth">http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth</a> on the HRSA website</p>
All Available MLN Products	<p>“Medicare Learning Network® Catalog of Products” 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” booklet 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>

### Physician Bonuses

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses>

### 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/SNFPSP/SwingBed.html>

### Telehealth

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

### U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>



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.

This fact sheet was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This fact sheet may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

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## REGIONAL OFFICE RURAL HEALTH COORDINATORS

Below is a list of contact information for CMS Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators who provide technical, policy, and operational assistance on rural health issues.

### Region I – Boston

#### Rick Hoover

Email: [rick.hoover@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:rick.hoover@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (617) 565-1258

States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

### Region II – New York

#### Miechal Lefkowitz

Email:

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Telephone: (212) 616-2517

States: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands

### Region III – Philadelphia

#### Patrick Hamilton

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States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia

### Region IV – Atlanta

#### Lana Dennis

Email: [lane.dennis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:lane.dennis@cms.hhs.gov)

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States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

### Region V – Chicago

#### Nicole Jacobson

Email:

[nicole.jacobson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:nicole.jacobson@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (312) 353-5737

States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

### Region VI – Dallas

#### Kaleigh Emerson

Email:

[kaleigh.emerson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:kaleigh.emerson@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (214) 767-6444

States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

### Region VII – Kansas City

#### Claudia Odgers

Email:

[claudia.odgers@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:claudia.odgers@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (816) 426-6524

States: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

### Region VIII – Denver

#### Lyla Nichols

Email: [lyla.nichols@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:lyla.nichols@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (303) 844-6218

States: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

### Region IX – San Francisco

#### Neal Logue

Email: [neal.logue@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:neal.logue@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (415) 744-3551

States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa

### Region X – Seattle

#### Teresa Cumpton

Email:

[teresa.cumpton@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:teresa.cumpton@cms.hhs.gov)

Telephone: (206) 615-2391

States: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington