



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation

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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Cassie Brown, Commissioner of Workers' Compensation

Date: April 2, 2020

RE: COVID-19: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issues guidance on telemedicine and telehealth

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is monitoring the latest developments on COVID-19.

CMS has issued a new list of telemedicine and telehealth services that can be reimbursed through Medicare during the federally-declared Public Health Emergency for COVID-19. New service codes primarily include Evaluation and Management, as well as Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Labor Code Section 413.011 requires DWC to adopt the most current reimbursement methodologies, models, and values or weights that CMS uses, including payment policies. In addition, 28 Texas Administrative Code Section 133.30 requires health care providers to bill for telemedicine and telehealth services according to applicable Medicare payment policies.

Health care providers can be reimbursed for the newly listed services rendered on or after March 31, 2020. The complete list of covered telemedicine and telehealth service codes is available on the [DWC telemedicine webpage](#).

Please note: CMS has not made changes to allow physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists to provide services through telemedicine or telehealth.

As a reminder, the ability to provide telemedicine or telehealth services in the Texas workers' compensation system depends on several factors. Services must be consistent with the following:

- health care provider's scope of practice and licensing requirements;
- rules of the health care provider's licensing board;

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- standard of care requirements; and
- DWC rules related to telemedicine and telehealth.

If you have any questions on telemedicine and telehealth in the Texas workers' compensation system:

- visit the [DWC telemedicine webpage](#);
- email us at compconnection@tdi.texas.gov; or
- call 800-252-7031 and select option 3.

We are all working in a continually changing environment. We will provide frequent updates with new information when necessary.

Please refer to the [DWC COVID-19 resource page](#), sign up for our [GovDelivery email service](#), and follow us on social media for periodic updates.