

Vermont

Medicaid Program: Vermont Medicaid

Program Administrator: State Dept. of Vermont Health Access, under the Agency of Human Services

Regional Telehealth Resource Center: Northeast Telehealth Resource Center

Covers the States of: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island & Vermont

<http://netrc.org>

Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Summary

Vermont Medicaid reimburses for live video under certain circumstances. Home health monitoring is considered a Medicaid benefit and is available under certain conditions.

Source: Dept. of VT Health Access, *Green Mountain Care Provider Manual*, p. 110-111 (Feb. 2019). (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Definitions

Telemedicine is defined in Act 64 as "...the delivery of health care services...through the use of live interactive audio and video over a secure connection that complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191. Telemedicine does not include the use of audio-only telephone, e-mail, or facsimile."

Source: Dept. of VT Health Access, *Green Mountain Care Provider Manual*, p. 106 (Feb. 2019). (Accessed Sept. 2019).

"Telemedicine means the delivery of health care services such as diagnosis, consultation, or treatment through the use of live interactive audio and video over a secure connection that meets Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements. Telemedicine does not include the use of audio-only telephone, e-mail, or facsimile."

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k* (2017). (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Telehealth means health care delivered by a provider who is located at a distant site to a beneficiary at an originating site for purposes of evaluation, diagnosis, consultation, or treatment using telecommunications technology via two-way, real-time, audio and video interactive communication, through a secure connection that complies with HIPAA.

Telemedicine encompasses the following:

- Real-time, audio video communication tools that connect providers and patients in different locations. Tools can include interactive videoconferencing or videoconferencing using mobile health (mHealth) applications (apps) that are used on a computer or hand-held mobile device.
- Store-and-forward technologies that collect images and data to be transmitted and interpreted later, which may also involve the use of mHealth apps.
- Remote patient-monitoring tools such as home blood pressure monitors, Bluetooth-enabled digital scales and other devices that can communicate biometric data for review, which may also involve the use of mHealth apps.

Source: Department of Vermont Health Access. Agency of Human Services. *Telehealth: Methods for healthcare service delivery using telecommunications technologies*. (July 2019). (Accessed Sept. 2019).



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Live Video

Policy

Health insurance plans must provide coverage for health care service delivered through telemedicine by a health care provider at a distant site to a patient at an originating site to the same extent that the plan would cover the services if they were provided through in-person consultation.

An originating site is the location of the patient, whether or not accompanied by a health care provider, at the time services are provided by a health care provider through telemedicine, including a health care provider's office, a hospital, or a health care facility, or the patient's home or another nonmedical environment such as a school-based health center, a university-based health center or patient's workplace.

A distant site is the location of the health care provider delivering services through telemedicine at the time the services are provided.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k & Title 18 Sec. 9361 (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Live video is reimbursed for clinically appropriate services delivered through telemedicine outside a health care facility or from facility to facility.

Facilities providing live telemedicine services are required to use the GT modifier.

02 place of service code must be on all claims.

Source: *Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 106 (Feb. 2019).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Eligible Services / Specialties

No reference found.

Eligible Providers

A distant site is the location of the health care provider delivering services through telemedicine at the time the services are provided.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k & Title 18 Sec. 9361(h(1)) (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Must be provided by a provider who is working within the scope of his or her practice and enrolled in Vermont Medicaid.

Source: *VT Agency of Human Services. Health Care Administrative Rules. 3.101.3 (Jan. 2019) & Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 106 (Feb. 2019).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Eligible Sites

An originating site is the location of the patient, whether or not accompanied by a health care provider, at the time services are provided by a health care provider through telemedicine, including a health care provider's office, a hospital, or a health care facility, or the patient's home or another nonmedical environment such as a school-based health center, a university-based health center or patient's workplace.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k & Title 18 Sec. 9361 (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Live Video	Geographic Limits	No reference found.
	Facility/Transmission Fee	<p>A facility fee is reimbursed, unless the facility site provider is employed by the same entity as the distant site provider.</p> <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 106 (Feb. 2019). (Accessed Sept. 2019).</i></p> <p>The Department of Vermont Health Access is required to reimburse the health care provider at the distant site and the health care facility at the originating site for services rendered, unless the providers at both the distant and originating sites are employed by the same entity.</p> <p>Source: <i>VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k(g) (2017) (Accessed Sept. 2019).</i></p>
Store-and-Forward	Policy	<p>Statute permits health plans (including Medicaid) the option to reimburse for teleophthalmology and teledermatology services provided by store-and-forward. In the Medicaid Provider Manual dated Feb. 1, 2019, VT Medicaid states it does not reimburse for these services.</p> <p>Source: <i>VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k. (2017). & Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 106 (Feb. 2019). (Accessed Sept. 2019).</i></p> <p>Health Care Administrative Rules Dated Jan. 1, 2019, VT Agency of Human Services states that:</p> <p>To be covered, services shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clinically appropriate for delivery through store-and-forward • Be medically necessary • Only be allowed for teledermatology and teleophthalmology. <p>Source: <i>VT Agency of Human Services. Health Care Administrative Rules. 3.101.2(b) (Jan. 2019) (Accessed Sept. 2019).</i></p>
	Eligible Services/Specialties	<p>No reimbursement for tele-ophthalmology or tele-dermatology by store-and-forward stated in the Provider Manual dated Feb 1, 2019. However, as noted above, The Administrative Rules for the VT Agency of Human Services (dated Jan. 1, 2019), states that store-and-forward teledermatology and teleophthalmology is covered. The two policies are close enough in date as to make it uncertain which may be the actual policy in place.</p> <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 106 (Feb. 2019) & VT Agency of Human Services. Health Care Administrative Rules. 3.101.2(b) (Jan. 2019) (Accessed Sept. 2019).</i></p>
	Geographic Limits	No reference found.



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Remote Patient Monitoring	Store-and-Forward	Transmission Fee	No reference found.
	Remote Patient Monitoring	Policy	<p>VT Medicaid is required to cover home telemonitoring services performed by home health agencies or other qualified providers for beneficiaries who have serious or chronic medical conditions.</p> <p>Source: <i>VT Statutes Annotated Title 33 Sec. 1901g(a).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p> <p>Home telemonitoring is a Medicaid benefit.</p> <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 141-142 (Feb. 2019).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
		Conditions	<p>Individuals receiving Medicaid telemonitoring services must have Congestive Heart Failure (any diagnosis; 428.xx).</p> <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 141 (Feb. 2019).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
		Provider Limitations	<p>Qualified providers are home health agencies enrolled with Vermont Medicaid.</p> <p>The following healthcare professionals can review data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered nurse • Nurse practitioner • Clinical nurse specialist • Licensed practice nurse under supervision of RN • Physician assistant <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 141-142 (Feb. 2019).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>
		Other Restrictions	<p>Individuals receiving Medicaid telemonitoring must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have Medicaid as primary insurance or be dually eligible with non-home bound status; and • Have congestive heart failure; and • Be clinically eligible for home health services; and • Have a physician's plan of care with an order for telemonitoring services <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 141-142 (Feb. 2019).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p> <p>Must be provided by a provider who is working within the scope of his or her practice and enrolled in Vermont Medicaid.</p> <p>Source: <i>VT Agency of Human Services. Health Care Administrative Rules. 3.101.2(b) (Jan. 2019) & Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 141 (Feb. 2019).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p> <p>Qualified providers may bill once in every 30 days, including all necessary equipment; computer system, connections, and software; maintenance; patient education and support; per month. CPT 98969 may be billed once every 7 days for ongoing assessment and management of telemonitoring data.</p> <p>Source: <i>Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 142 (Feb. 2019).</i> (Accessed Sept. 2019).</p>



Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement

Email / Phone / Fax

No reimbursement for email.
No reimbursement for telephone.
No reimbursement for FAX.

Source: Dept. of VT Health Access, Green Mountain Care Provider Manual, p. 106 (Feb. 2019). (Accessed Sept. 2019)

Consent

Written or oral informed consent for telemedicine services shall be provided in accordance with Vermont and national policies and guidelines on the appropriate use of telemedicine within the provider's profession prior to the use of telemedicine.

Source: VT Statutes Annotated, Title 18 Sec. 9361 (2017). (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Out of State Providers

No reference found.

Miscellaneous

No reference found.

Private Payer Laws

Definitions

"Telemedicine means the delivery of health care services such as diagnosis, consultation, or treatment through the use of live interactive audio and video over a secure connection that meets Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements. Telemedicine does not include the use of audio-only telephone, e-mail, or facsimile."

Source: VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k(7) (2017). (Accessed Sept. 2019).



Private Payer Laws

Requirements

Health insurance plans must provide coverage for health care service delivered through telemedicine by a health care provider at a distant site to a patient at an originating site to the same extent that the plan would cover the services if they were provided through in-person consultation.

An originating site is the location of the patient, whether or not accompanied by a health care provider, at the time services are provided by a health care provider through telemedicine, including a health care provider's office, a hospital, or a health care facility, or the patient's home or another nonmedical environment such as a school-based health center, a university-based health center or patient's workplace.

A distant site is the location of the health care provider delivering services through telemedicine at the time the services are provided.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k & Title 18 Sec. 9361 (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

A health plan may limit coverage to health care providers in the plan's network. A health plan cannot impose limitations on the number of telemedicine consultations a covered person may receive that exceed limitations on in-person services. Health plans are not prohibited from limiting coverage to only services that are medically necessary and clinically appropriate for delivery through telemedicine, subject to the terms and conditions of the covered person's contract.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Parity

Service Parity

For live video, plans are required to cover services provided through telemedicine to the same extent the plan covers services provided in-person. For store-and-forward, plans are allowed but not required to reimburse for tele-ophthalmology and tele-dermatology.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k. (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).

Payment Parity

No explicit payment parity.

Professional Regulation/Health & Safety

Definitions

"Telemedicine means the delivery of health care services such as diagnosis, consultation, or treatment through the use of live interactive audio and video over a secure connection that meets Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements. Telemedicine does not include the use of audio-only telephone, e-mail, or facsimile."

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 8 Sec. 4100k (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019) & *Title 18 Sec. 9361 (2017).*

Consent

A health care provider delivering health care services through telemedicine must obtain and document a patient's oral or written informed consent.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 18 Sec. 9361 (2017).* (Accessed Sept. 2019).



Online Prescribing

Providers may prescribe, dispense, or administer drugs or medical supplies, or otherwise provide treatment recommendations if they first examine the patient in-person, through telemedicine, or by the use of instrumentation and diagnostic equipment through which images and medical records may be transmitted electronically.

Treatment recommendations made via electronic means, including issuing a prescription via electronic means, shall be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in traditional provider-patient settings.

Source: *VT Statutes Annotated, Title 18 Sec. 9361(b) (2017). (Accessed Sept. 2019).*

Cross-State Licensing

Member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Source: *Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The IMLC. (Accessed Sept. 2019).*

Miscellaneous

No reference found.

