

1 Introduced by House Committee on Health Care

2 Date:

3 Subject: Health; health insurance; reimbursement rates; audio-only telephone;
4 telemedicine

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health
6 insurance plans provide the same reimbursement amounts to health care
7 providers for delivering health care services in person, by telemedicine, and by
8 audio-only telephone. It would also repeal a sunset on reimbursement parity
9 for telemedicine services, as the reimbursement provision is scheduled to
10 expire on January 1, 2026.

11 An act relating to reimbursement parity for health care services delivered in
12 person, by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4100I is amended to read:

15 § 4100I. COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY
16 AUDIO-ONLY TELEPHONE

17 * * *

18 (b)(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for all medically
19 necessary, clinically appropriate health care services delivered remotely by
20 audio-only telephone to the same extent that the plan would cover the services

1 if they were provided through in-person consultation. Services covered under
2 this subdivision shall include services that are covered when provided in the
3 home by home health agencies.

4 (2)(A) A health insurance plan shall provide the same reimbursement
5 rate for services billed using equivalent procedure codes and modifiers, subject
6 to the terms of the health insurance plan and provider contract, regardless of
7 whether the service was provided through an in-person visit with the health
8 care provider or by audio-only telephone.

9 (B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not
10 apply in the event that a health insurer and health care provider enter into a
11 value-based contract for health care services that include care delivered by
12 audio-only telephone.

13 (c) A health insurance plan may charge an otherwise permissible
14 deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance for a health care service delivered by
15 audio-only telephone, provided that it does not exceed the deductible, co-
16 payment, or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

17 ~~(3)~~(d) A health insurance plan shall not require a health care provider to
18 have an existing relationship with a patient in order to be reimbursed for health
19 care services delivered by audio-only telephone.

1 Sec. 2. REPEAL; TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY SUNSET

2 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 27 (repealing 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(a)(2),

3 telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.