



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Ashe, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
From: Steven M. Costantino, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access
Cc: Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services
Date: March 20th, 2015
Re: Medicaid and Telemedicine

During DVHA’s testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on March 18, the committee requested additional information on telemedicine under Vermont’s Medicaid program.

Telemedicine under Medicaid:

Vermont’s Medicaid program defines telemedicine as the practice of health care delivery by a provider who is located at a site other than the site where the patient is located for the purposes of evaluation, diagnosis, consultation, or treatment that requires the use of advanced telecommunications technology by permitting two-way, real-time interactive communications between the patient at the originating site and the physician or practitioner at the distant site. Medicaid providers are reimbursed at the same rate whether the service is provided in person or through the use of telemedicine, and are not reimbursed for telemedicine as a distinct service.

Proposed Bill Language

The proposed bill language requires Medicaid to provide coverage for primary care consultations delivered through telemedicine to Medicaid beneficiaries in a residential setting. In order to ensure federal match on telemedicine services delivered in a residential setting, federal approval of a new State Plan Amendment is required.

DVHA asks that the bill language be modified to state that Medicaid coverage of telemedicine in a residential setting is contingent on approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Count of Telemedicine Services by Billing Provider Type (data as of 3/18/2015)

Year	Facility/Billing Provider Type	Service	Service Count	Total SFY	
SFY13	(MSTR LVL)LICNSD PSYCHOL. & COUNSLR	Individual Psychotherapy	26	47	1029
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	1		
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	20		
	FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER	Evaluation and Management	495	904	
		Individual Psychotherapy	33		
		Pharmacological Management	167		
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	83		
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	126		
	PHYSICIAN	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	39	78	
		Evaluation and Management	30		
Pharmacological Management		9			
SFY14	(MSTR LVL)LICNSD PSYCHOL. & COUNSLR	Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	1	78	1766
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	77		
	FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER	Evaluation and Management	1124	1478	
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	78		
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	276		
	MH/DS CLINIC	Evaluation and Management	21	21	
	NURSING HOME - MEDICARE PARTICIPATI	Selfcare Functional Limitation, Current Status	1	1	
	PHYSICIAN	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	100	183	
		Evaluation and Management	38		
		Follow-up Inpatient Consultation	1		
Group Psychotherapy		2			
Medical Nutrition Therapy		28			
Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member		2			
Telehealth Consultation, Emergency Department or Initial Inpatient		12			
PSYCHOLOGIST - DOCTORATE	Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	5	5		
SFY15	(MSTR LVL)LICNSD PSYCHOL. & COUNSLR	Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	29	29	1256
	FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER	Evaluation and Management	769	1025	
		FQHC Visit, Established Patient	9		
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	73		
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	174		
	MH/DS CLINIC	Evaluation and Management	17	19	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	2		
	PHYSICIAN	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	55	179	
		Evaluation and Management	107		
		Medical Nutrition Therapy	8		
Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation		3			
Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member		6			
PSYCHOLOGIST - DOCTORATE	Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	4	4		

Count of Telemedicine Services by Attending Provider Type (data as of 3/18/2015)

Year	Provider Type	Service	Service Count	Total SFY
SFY13	(MSTR LVL)LICNSD PSYCHOL. & COUNSLR	Individual Psychotherapy	26	47
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	1	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	20	
	NURSE PRACTITIONER	Evaluation and Management	504	903
		Individual Psychotherapy	33	
		Pharmacological Management	167	
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	81	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	118	
	PHYSICIAN	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	39	79
		Evaluation and Management	21	
		Pharmacological Management	9	
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	2	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	8	
SFY14	(MSTR LVL)LICNSD PSYCHOL. & COUNSLR	Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	1	79
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	78	
	NURSE PRACTITIONER	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	17	1505
		Evaluation and Management	1135	
		Group Psychotherapy	2	
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	78	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	273	
	OTHER	Medical Nutrition Therapy	28	28
	PHYSICIAN	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	83	149
		Evaluation and Management	48	
		Follow-up Inpatient Consultation	1	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	4	
		Selfcare Functional Limitation, Current Status	1	
Telehealth Consultation, Emergency Department or Initial Inpatient		12		
PSYCHOLOGIST - DOCTORATE	Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	5	5	
SFY15	(MSTR LVL)LICNSD PSYCHOL. & COUNSLR	Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	30	30
	NURSE PRACTITIONER	Evaluation and Management	800	1057
		FQHC Visit, Established Patient	9	
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	74	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	174	
	OTHER	Medical Nutrition Therapy	8	8
	PHYSICIAN	End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Services	55	157
		Evaluation and Management	93	
		Psychiatric Diagnostic Examination or Evaluation	2	
		Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	7	
PSYCHOLOGIST - DOCTORATE	Psychotherapy with Patient and/or Family Member	4	4	