S. 50 - An Act Relating to Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine Services Delivered in or Outside a Health Care Facility

House Committee on Health Care

March 31, 2017

BCBSVT & Telemedicine

- BCBSVT is supportive of S.50 and recently introduced telemedicine services to its members

- BCBSVT has contracted with American Well to offer access to our members for video telemedicine acute medical care consultations

- BCBSVT particularly supports the requirement of a HIPAA-compliant secure connection
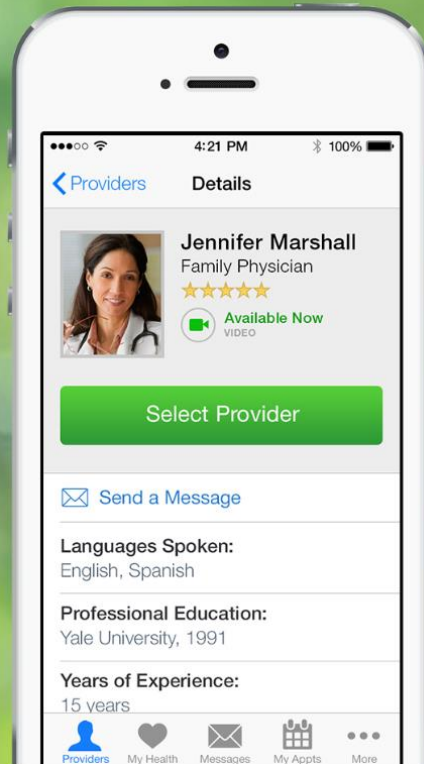
BCBSVT Telemedicine Experience
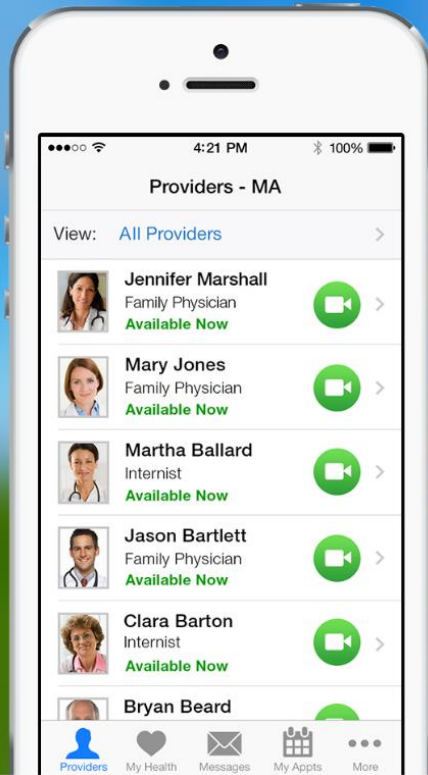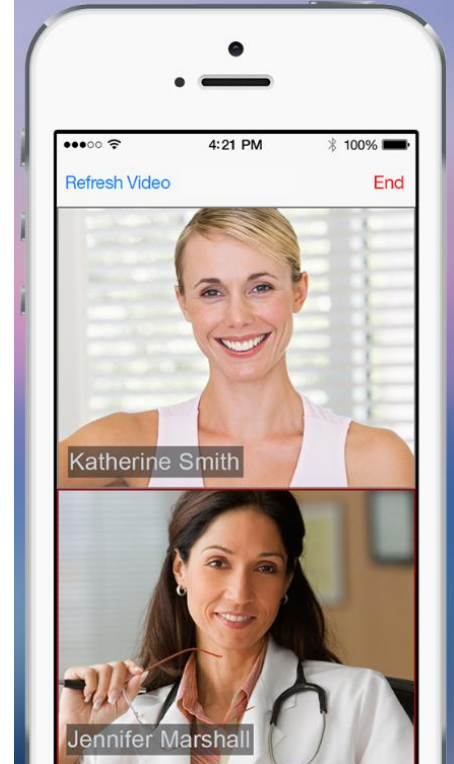
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Effectiveness of Telemedicine – Acute Care

	Telemedicine	Retail Health Clinic	Urgent Care Center	Emergency Department	PCP
Follow-up Office Visit	28.1%	28.6%	25.6%	34.2%	28.1%
Lab Test within 21 Days	12.6%	36.8%	39.0%	53.2%	37.4%
Imagining Rates within 21 Days	6.6%	6.0%	8.8%	43.1%	11.3%
Antibiotic Fills within 3 Days	70.5%	64.2%	67.9%	56.7%	68.2%

Note: Journal of Internet Medical Research; *Virtual Visits of Acute, Nonurgent Care: A Claims Analysis of Episode-Level Utilization* | vol 19 | iss 2 | e35 | p 6

Diagnoses included: sinusitis, upper respiratory infection, urinary tract infection, bronchitis, conjunctivitis, pharyngitis, cough, contact dermitis, influenza, digestive symptoms, and ear disorders.

The results of the telemedicine visits for acute care are either similar to or better than the results from other sites of care

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Effectiveness of Telemedicine – Behavioral Health

- A 2008 meta-analysis of 92 studies, found that the differences between Internet-based therapy and face-to-face were not statistically significant (*Journal of Technology in Human Services*, Vol. 26, No. 2).

- A 2009 review of 148 peer-reviewed publications examining the use of videoconferencing to deliver patient interventions showed high patient satisfaction, moderate to high clinician satisfaction and positive clinical outcomes (*Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, Vol. 16, No. 3).

- A 2010 study found that videoconferencing can be successful in treating post-traumatic stress disorder. The researchers found that the video-based anger management therapy was just as effective as the face-to-face care. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* (Vol. 71, No. 7)

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Reimbursement Parity

- Two types of telemedicine

    - Provider Direct Reimbursement
        - *For "facility to facility" consultations or when provider is having a telemedicine consultation outside of a vendor relationship*
        - *BCBSVT supports reimbursement parity*

    - Vendor Reimbursement
        - *For consultations going through a third-party technology and the third-party is contracted with the payer*
        - *BCBSVT does not support reimbursement parity*

Reimbursement Parity

- BCBSVT and VMS agree on reimbursement parity for the two different types of telemedicine

- Need to work with Legislative Council on the language for the bill

Questions?

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