

Dear Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I want to add additional information in support of Sarah Kessler's testimony this morning. The information is around billing for laboratory results. If results are discussed and reported during a pre-scheduled audio-only visit as part of a more detailed consultation with a patient where questions are answered and care plans are discussed, that visit is billable. If results are reported during a very brief audio-only call and the other facets of a robust patient visit are not included, that visit is not billed. Patients would not be surprised that an unsolicited phone call turns into a billed encounter. This is consistent with Sarah's testimony, but context I think is important to have as it relates to S.244.

For further context when our practices use the most common phone codes 99441, 99442 and 99443 by definition they cannot relate to another E/M (office visit) service within the previous seven days and cannot lead to an E/M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment. This also limits these codes being used for follow-up related to another recent appointment.

Sincerely, Jason