

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

H.861

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

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

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

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

* * *

(b)(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for all medically necessary, clinically appropriate health care services delivered remotely by audio-only telephone to the same extent that the plan would cover the services if they were provided through in-person consultation. Services covered under this subdivision shall include services that are covered when provided in the home by home health agencies.

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

(B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not apply in the event that a health insurer and health care provider enter into a

1 value-based contract for health care services that include care delivered by
2 audio-only telephone.

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

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

10 Sec. 2. REPEAL; TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY SUNSET
11 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 27 (repealing 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(a)(2),
12 telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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