

## **Telehealth & COVID-19:**

- Resources are available at <https://www.mwhc.net/Telehealth%20Toolkit.aspx>.
- On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the CARES Act was approved, allowing *telemedicine* to be delivered as the Distant Site by Rural Health Clinics for Medicare patients. Payment Rules and expanded procedural codes for telemedicine delivery are being developed. Be on the lookout for this updated information. We will post new developments to our website. Note: We expect to receive additional guidance on payment rules and continue to recommend our clients provide the services and hold claims until more details are received.
- Virtual Communication services (G0071 RHC) may be offered and provide additional avenues to screen and serve your patients. Services are being expanded in the payment for HCPCS code G0071. The payment rate will be updated to reflect the addition of these services. CPT codes: 99421-99423, online digital evaluation & management services, are being added:
  - 99421 – Online digital E&M, established patient, for up to 7 days, cumulative time – 5-10 minutes;
  - 99422 – Online digital E&M, established patient, for up to 7 days, cumulative time – 11-20 minutes;
  - 99423 – Online digital E&M, established patient, for up to 7 days, cumulative time – 21+ minutes.The payment rate for HCPCS code G0071 will be revised to include the national non-facility payment rates for these new codes. Effective for services on or after March 1, 2020 and throughout the COVID pandemic. The payment rate for HCPCS code G0071 will be the average of the PFS national non-facility payment rate for HCPCS code G2012 (communication technology-based services), HCPCS code G2010 (remote evaluation services), CPT code 99421, CPT code 99422, and CPT code 99423.
- The CARES Act *Relief* offers three provisions:
  - Grants for health care providers – Covers revenue loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - Small Business Loans to cover the cost of employee salaries and other items mentioned in the publication, if you keep your business open during the pandemic. *Under certain conditions, these loans may be forgivable;*
  - Accelerated or Advanced Payments from Medicare recouped through future billing.

Note: Refer to MWHC's Telehealth Toolkit on our website. Fact Sheet – Expansion of Accelerated & Advanced Payments during COVID-19.
- Sequestration cuts of 2% have been delayed from May 1 to December 31, 2020 extended an additional year past its original end date.
- For Medicaid and Managed Medicaid telehealth, many States or Managed Care Organizations have released information pertaining to telehealth and waivers. Check with your State or Managed Care Organization for specifics. (Note: For instance, Missouri is paying for their services. Refer to our Telehealth Toolkit for additional information) The following website includes current State laws and reimbursement policies for informational purposes.

<https://www.cchpca.org/telehealth-policy/current-state-laws-and-reimbursement-policies>

- For general providers, CMS has provided a Telehealth and Telemedicine Tool Kit that provides general guidance. The link is also provided on our website in MWHC's Telehealth Toolkit.  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/general-telemedicine-toolkit.pdf>