Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued guidance implementing section 3704 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which authorizes RHCs and FQHCs to furnish distant site telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries during the COVID-19 PHE. RHCs and FQHCs can immediately provide and be paid for telehealth services furnished to patients covered by Medicare for the duration of the COVID-19 PHE.

Distant site telehealth services can be furnished by any health care practitioner working for the RHC or the FQHC within their scope of practice. Practitioners can furnish distant site telehealth services from any location, including their home, during the time that they are working for the RHC or FQHC, and can furnish any telehealth service that is approved as a distant site telehealth service under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). Payment to RHCs and FQHCs for distant site telehealth services is set at $92, which is the average amount for all PFS telehealth services on the telehealth list, weighted by volume for those services reported under the PFS.

For more information on this guidance, please review this MLN Matters Article.

For information specific to what CMS is doing in response to COVID-19, please visit the Current Emergencies Website.