

Telehealth Expansion and Protecting Ohio Patients

Telehealth is an important care delivery method for improving access in underserved Ohio communities, particularly rural areas, areas with physician shortages and other healthcare services. Telehealth can help reduce gaps in access to services and care, including access to primary care and specialized providers when in-person visits are not a safe or feasible option.

With constantly evolving medical technology, legislation is needed to appropriately regulate this growing service in Ohio, and to encourage its continued adoption and use, beyond the COVID pandemic. Telehealth is not a replacement for traditional healthcare, but rather an enhancement.

We can expand healthcare treatment options in Ohio while maintaining high standards of care and patient protections.

- **What is telehealth?** Telehealth effectively connects individuals and their healthcare providers when an in-person interaction is not clinically necessary. Telehealth appointments occur through a secure environment which could include virtual visits, chat-based interactions, and remote patient monitoring using interactive audio, video, and other technologies.
- **What will Ohio's telehealth legislation do?** The legislation will define the practitioners, services, cost-sharing, and reimbursement standards associated with telehealth in Ohio. The legislation will enable flexibility for services to be rendered across state lines (as other states are able to perform in Ohio), in-person meeting stipulations, and provide guidance for pandemic circumstances. It will allow for a broad, site-neutral definition of telehealth.
- **Will the legislation address consistency in regulations?** Each medical board in Ohio has established their own rules regarding what services can be performed in their respective fields. The Ohio Departments of Insurance and Medicaid have also set telehealth reimbursement standards and regulations. This legislation is needed to ensure that Ohio patients, providers and payers have the consistency they need to ensure those wanting to utilize telemedicine can, with as much ease as possible.
- **Will the legislation address consistent rules for coverage and cost-sharing?** Telehealth services should be available for patients to the same extent that a plan covers in-person healthcare services, and without forcing a patient to pay a higher cost-sharing amount. Telehealth services should not be excluded just because it is telemedicine and providers should be reimbursed for telehealth services covered under a patient's plan.



Please see backside for complete list of supporters.

The following organizations support efforts to continue and expand telehealth services:

American Academy of Pediatrics – Ohio Chapter
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