

## Updated Guidance for Florida Medicaid Coverage of Telemedicine Services for School Based Services

Joseph, Cynthia <Cynthia.Joseph@ahca.myflorida.com>

Mon 8/17/2020 4:58 PM

 1 attachments (77 KB)

Telemedicine Guidance for School-Based Services Providers 3-31-20.pdf;

Good Afternoon Everyone,

We hope everyone is staying safe and keeping healthy. As the COVID-19 state of emergency continues, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) understands the unique challenges schools are facing with reopening this fall. As such, the Agency has expanded the telemedicine flexibilities for school-based services provided to eligible students who are attending school face-to-face during the state of emergency. Telemedicine flexibilities for Medicaid recipients not physically present at school (virtual learning) during the state of emergency will continue until further notice. The March 2020 guidance for schools is attached for reference.

### **Updated Guidance: Florida Medicaid Coverage of Telemedicine Services While the Student is Receiving Face-to-Face Instruction**

- The Agency will permit telemedicine (live, two-way audio and video communication) for behavioral health and therapy services (physical, occupational, and speech) while a Medicaid recipient is physically present at school during the state of emergency.
- School-based providers must comply with the following:
  - Parental consent is required for children physically located at school to receive services using telemedicine. The signed, dated, and active informed consent must ensure the parent (or legal guardian) is aware and agrees to their child receiving services using telemedicine.
  - To the extent needed, an adult must be present during the session if the child requires assistance using the technology or requires some level of adult supervision to appropriately complete the therapy session.
  - The child must be present for the duration of the service provided using telemedicine.
  - Telemedicine should be used as a last resort when face-to-face services cannot be provided to the child at school.
  - Providers must ensure services are medically necessary and performed in accordance with the [service specific policy](#) and [fee schedule](#).
  - Telemedicine should not be used by a provider if it may result in any reduction to the quality of care or if the service delivered through this modality could adversely impact the recipient.
  - Documentation regarding the use of telemedicine must be included in the progress notes for each encounter with a recipient. All other documentation requirements for the service must be met as described in the coverage policy.
  - Providers must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) when providing services; all equipment and means of communication transmission must be HIPAA compliant.
- Florida Medicaid reimburses for a telemedicine visit at the same rate detailed on the [school-based fee schedule](#).
- Florida Medicaid does not reimburse for the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of telecommunication devices or systems.
- Providers must append the GT modifier to the procedure codes when filing claims.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Cynthia

---

**Cynthia Joseph - MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE PROG  
ANALYST**

---

Bldg. 3 Rm. 2333B - BUREAU OF MEDICAID POLICY  
2727 MAHAN DR., TALLAHASSEE, FL. 32308  
850-412-4236 (Office) - (Fax)  
Cynthia.Joseph@ahca.myflorida.com

Privacy Statement: This e-mail may include confidential and/or proprietary information, and may be used only by the person or entity to which it is addressed. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient or his or her authorized agent, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail is prohibited. If you have received this in error, please reply to the sender and delete it immediately.