ARKANSAS REGISTER



Proposed Rule Cover Sheet

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Name of Department				
Agency or Division Name				
Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable				
Previous Agency Name, If Applicable				
Contact Person_				
Contact E-mail				
Contact Phone_				
Name of Rule				
Newspaper Name				
Date of Publishing				
Final Date for Public Comment				
Location and Time of Public Meeting				

DHS Telemedicine COVID-19 Response Manual

July 1, 2021

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200.000 OVERVIEW

201.000 Authority

The following rules are duly adopted and promulgated by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) under the authority of Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 20-10-203, 20-10-701, 20-38-103, 20-38-112, 20-48-103, 20-76-201, 20-76-401, 20-77-107, , 25-10-126, and 25-10-129.

202.000 Purpose

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DHS identified programs and services that required additional flexibility or changes to adapt to ensuring the health and safety of our clients. This manual details them so that DHS may render uninterrupted assistance and services to our clients.

203.000 Appeals

Appeal requests for COVID-19 response policies must adhere to the policy set forth in the Medicaid Provider Manual Section 160.000 Administrative Reconsideration and Appeals which can be accessed at https://medicaid.mmis.arkansas.gov/Provider/Docs/all.aspx.

204.000 Severability

Each section of this manual is severable from all others. If any section of this manual is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the validity of other sections in this manual and all such other sections shall remain in full force and effect. In such an event, all other sections shall be construed and enforced as if this section had not been included therein.

241.00 First Connections Developmental Therapy Telemedicine

During a public health emergency, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires that eligible children with disabilities have continuity of Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) services provided through alternative means such as teletherapy or other video conferencing. Currently, Medicaid's telehealth policies exclude Developmental Therapists from providing teletherapy services. First Connections needs a way to continue to provide developmental and consultative services to parents/guardians to support program-eligible children in developing and learning functional skills.

This method will be available until December 31, 2021.

- Modification to use teletherapy to provide developmental therapy/consultative services (DT) to parents/guardians of eligible children 0-3 with a current IFSP to help parents help their child develop and learn as required by IDEA, Part C.
- DT is provided to parents/guardians of eligible children through accessible real-time technology which includes a video component with originating site requirements removed so that families can receive services from their home (maximum 60 minutes per week).
- DT through teletherapy must be billed to the First Connections grant. T1027 Developmental Therapy is prior authorized at \$18.00 per unit and T1027 modifier UB Developmental Therapy Assistant is prior authorized at \$15.00 per unit.

244.00 Telemedicine for Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapists and Assistants

In response to COVID-19 allowable telemedicine services include services provided by licensed occupational, physical, or speech therapists or assistants. These services are available to established patients only.

Parental Consultation is a COVID-19 response service that allows a therapist assistant or therapist to instruct a parent or caregiver on how to use therapeutic equipment or techniques with their child to continue working on therapy goals and objectives. To bill for this service, the therapy assistant or therapist must document that the parent or caregiver was present with a beneficiary. The service must be provided using the appropriate real-time technology that includes both a video and audio component. The originating service requirement is relaxed so that the parent may receive this service from their home.

The service may be provided in 15-minute sessions with a maximum of 8 sessions per month. All services must be prior authorized by eQHealth Solutions. This service and individual therapy services through telemedicine will be available until December 31, 2021.

Individual Therapy Services provided by a licensed Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, or Speech Therapist or Assistant allows for continued therapy services for established patients during this time of social distancing.

The technology used must be real-time and include a video and audio component. The sessions are limited to thirty minutes a piece, with a maximum of three (3) sessions per week.

The following services cannot be completed via telemedicine:

- A. Evaluations and re-evaluations. However, if an annual evaluation is due during this time, the deadline may be extended until the patient is able to come into the office.
- B. Group Therapy Services.

245.00 Telemedicine for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) for BCBA

In response to COVID-19 allowable telemedicine services includes Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services to established patients only. To allow for continued therapy services for established patients during this time of social distancing, DMS/DDS is lifting the requirement that the beneficiary be located at a healthcare facility (originating site) to receive telemedicine services for the following services only:

- Adaptive behavior treatment provided by a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board-Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D)
- Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance, by a BCBA or BCBA-D

This service through telemedicine will be available until December 31, 2021.

Billing Instructions

All units are prior authorized. To bill for this service, the BCBA must document that the parent or caregiver was present with a beneficiary. The service may be provided at the same rate as the regular "face-to-face" rate. All services must be prior authorized by eQHealth Solutions. When billing for these services you must include all modifiers on the claim. All Therapy claims submitted for Telemedicine must include the GT modifier and (02) as the place of service.

BCBA is a licensed clinician that may perform telemedicine under the scope of their license. The sessions are limited to 30 minutes, with a maximum of three (3) sessions per week.

97155 EP

Adaptive behavior treatment provided by a BCBA or BCBA-D. Individual adaptive behavior treatment by BCBA, face-to-face with the patient and may also include caregivers. This includes implementation and modification of treatment the plan. This may also include simultaneous direction of technician.

97156 EP

Family adaptive behavior treatment, provided by a BCBA, face-to-face with parents and/or caregivers. Family sessions should address education of the parents or caregivers on the patient's plan of care, specific objectives, treatment approaches, etc. as they relate to the individual client's ASD symptoms and how to address them in the patient's natural environment.

The following services cannot be completed via telemedicine:

- A. Evaluations and re-evaluations. However, if an annual evaluation is due during this time, the deadline may be extended until the patient is able to come into the office.
- B. Group ABA Services.

246.000 Telemedicine Autism Waiver

In response to COVID-19 the allowable telemedicine service available under the Autism Waiver is 2024 U3 Individual Assessment/Treatment Plan/Development/Monitoring.

These services through telemedicine will be available until December 31, 2021.

260.102 Telemedicine Originating Site Requirements for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Section 105.190, regarding the originating site requirements for services provided to established patients by advanced practice registered nurses is suspended through date of service December 31, 2021.

DMS issues the following guidance and policy related to Nurse Practitioners (NP) use of telemedicine.

Professional Relationship Requirements

Nurse Practitioners may provide telemedicine services using the following guidelines to establish professional relationship with new patients until the State Public Health Emergency is rescinded:

- The NP providing telehealth services must have access to a patient's personal health record maintained by a physician.
- The telemedicine service may be provided by any technology deemed appropriate, including telephone, but it must be provided in real time (cannot be delayed communication).
- NP may use telemedicine to diagnose, treat, and, when clinically appropriate, prescribe a non-controlled drug to the patient as allowed under their scope of practice.

To bill for these services, use the appropriate billing procedure code with the "GT" modifier and Place of Service (POS) "02".

Once the State Public Health Emergency has ended, Section 105.190 of the Medicaid Provider Manual is reinstated according to statutory authority.

Originating Site Requirements

DMS is waiving the originating site requirement for evaluation and management (E&M) services provided to established patients by NPs. This will allow the NP to utilize telemedicine technology, including telephone, when appropriate, to diagnose, provide treatment and prescribe to patients as allowed by their scope of practice, while the patient remains in their home. To use telemedicine technology to provide services without an originating site, the following requirements must be met:

• The technology must be real-time (cannot be delayed communications).

• The NP must have access to the patient's medical records.

To bill for these services, please use the appropriate billing codes with the "GT" and Place of Service "02" modifier.

Virtual Patient Check-Ins

To prevent unnecessary travel and office visits, Medicaid is opening the virtual check-in CPT (code G2012) described below through date of service December 31, 2021.

To use the Code G2012 to provide virtual check-in services, meet the following requirements:

- Can be any real-time audio (telephone), or "2-way audio interactions that are enhanced with video or other kinds of data transmission."
- For established patients only.
- To be used for:
 - Any chronic patient who needs to be assessed as to whether an office visit is needed.
 - Patients being treated for opioid and other substance-use disorders.
- Nurse or other staff member cannot provide this service. It must be a clinician who can bill evaluation and management (E&M) services.
- If an E&M service is provided within the defined time frames, then the telehealth visit is bundled with that E&M service. It would be considered pre- or post-visit time and not separately billable.
- No geographic location restrictions for the patient.

Communication must be HIPAA compliant.

Code	Short Description	Fee
G2012	Brief communication technology-based service, e.g. virtual check-in, by a physician or other qualified health care professional who can report E&M services, provided to an established patient, not originating from a related E&M service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an E&M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment. Typically, 5-10 minutes of medical discussion.	\$13.33

260.103 Telemedicine Originating Site Requirements to Allow Services to a Beneficiary in his or her Home Through Date of Service December 31, 2021

Section 105.190 is suspended for the originating site requirement to allow all providers who can provide telemedicine services to provide those services to a beneficiary in his or her home through date of service December 31, 2021.

An out-of-state physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant who is an enrolled provider in Arkansas Medicaid may provide telemedicine services to an Arkansas Medicaid client, including prescribing drugs when clinically appropriate. The provider must follow any applicable requirements, including without limitation requirements of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Arkansas State Medical Board, and the Arkansas Board of Nursing.

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/GDP/(DEA-DC018)(DEA067)%20DEA%20state%20reciprocity%20(final)(Signed).pdf

Professional Relationship Requirements

Generally, a provider must have an established relationship with a patient before utilizing telemedicine to treat a patient. (See Medicaid Provider Manual § 105.190.) However, DMS has the authority to relax this requirement in case of an emergency. DMS is lifting the requirement to have an established professional relationship before utilizing telemedicine for physicians through date of service December 31, 2021 under the following conditions:

- The physician providing telehealth services must have access to a patient's personal health record maintained by a physician.
- The telemedicine service may be provided by any technology deemed appropriate, including telephone, but it must be provided in real time (cannot be delayed communication).
- Physicians may use telemedicine to diagnose, treat, and, when clinically appropriate, prescribe a non-controlled drug to the patient.

To bill for these services, please use the appropriate billing procedure code with the "GT" modifier and Place of Service (POS) "02"

Originating Site Requirements

DMS is waiving the originating site requirement for evaluation and management (E&M) services provided to established patients by primary care providers. This will allow the physician to utilize telemedicine technology, including telephone, when appropriate, to diagnose, treat and prescribe non-controlled substances to patients while the patient remains in their home. The following requirements must be met to use telemedicine technology to provide services without an originating site:

- The technology must be real-time cannot be delayed communications
- The physician must have access to the patient's medical records.

To bill for these services, please use the appropriate billing codes with the "GT" and Place of Service "02" modifier.

Virtual Patient Check-Ins

To use the Code G2012 to provide virtual check-in services, the following requirements must be met:

- Can be any real-time audio (telephone), or "2-way audio interactions that are enhanced with video or other kinds of data transmission."
- For established patients only.
- To be used for:
 - Any chronic patient who needs to be assessed as to whether an office visit is needed.
 - Patients being treated for opioid and other substance-use disorders.
- Nurse or other staff member cannot provide this service. It must be a clinician who can bill primary care services.
- If an E&M service is provided within the defined time frames, then the telehealth visit is bundled with that E&M service. It would be considered pre- or post-visit time and not separately billable.
- No geographic location restrictions for the patient.
- Communication must be HIPAA compliant.

Code	Short Description	Fee
G2012	Brief communication technology-based service, e.g. virtual check-in, by a physician or other qualified health care professional who can report E&M services, provided to an established patient, not originating from a related E&M service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an E&M service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment. Typically, 5-	\$13.33
	10 minutes of medical discussion.	

265.100 Behavioral Health Telemedicine

Sections 252.113 and 252.114 concerning face-to-face treatment requirements are suspended through date of service December 31, 2021. Section 252.117 concerning telemedicine service limitations for beneficiaries age twenty-one (21) and over is suspended through date of service December 31, 2021 along with Section 252.119 concerning telemedicine service limitations related to substance abuse assessments and Section 255.001 concerning face-to-face service requirements for crisis intervention.

DMS is suspending the rules prohibiting telemedicine for Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling with or without the Beneficiary being present. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to provide Marital and Family Therapy Services via telemedicine. Any technology deemed appropriate may be used, including telephones, but technology must utilize direct communication that takes place in real-time.

The allowable codes for these rule suspensions:

- Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling with Beneficiary Present
 - o 90847, U4, GT
 - 90847, U4, U5, GT Substance Abuse
 - o 90847, UC, UK, U4, GT Dyadic Treatment
 - Place of Service to include 02 Telemedicine
- Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling without Beneficiary Present
 - o 90846, U4, GT
 - o 90846, U4, U5, GT Substance Abuse
 - Place of Service to include 02 Telemedicine

DMS is suspending the rule limiting Mental Health Diagnosis be conducted via telemedicine to only the adult population over age 21. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to use telemedicine as an allowable mode of service delivery to beneficiaries under the age of 21.

The allowable code for this rule suspension:

- Mental Health Diagnosis
 - o 90791, U4, GT
 - o 90791, UC, UK, U4, GT Dyadic Treatment Diagnosis
 - Allowable Mode of Delivery- Adults, Youth and Children

DMS is suspending the requirement that substance abuse assessments be conducted face-toface. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to use telemedicine as an allowable mode of service delivery to provide substance abuse assessments.

The allowable code for this rule suspension:

- Substance Abuse Assessment
 - o H0001, U4

DMS is suspending the rule prohibiting telemedicine for Crisis Intervention Services. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to provide Crisis Intervention Services via telemedicine. Technology must utilize direct communication that takes place in real-time.

The allowable billing codes for this rule suspension:

- Crisis Intervention
 - H2011, HA, U4, GT
 - Place of service code 02



FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

DE	PAR	IMENT	Department of	of Human Se	ervices		
DI	VISIC	N	Division of N	Medical Serv	rices		
PE	PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Jason Callan						
TE	LEPI	HONE (501	1) 320-6540	_FAX	EMAIL: Jason	.Callan@dhs.	arkansas.gov
To Sta	To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file two copies with the questionnaire and proposed rules.						
	IORT ULE	TITLE O	F THIS				
1.	Does	s this propo	sed, amended,	or repealed	rule have a financial impact?	Yes 🗌	No 🖂
2.	. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule? Yes No						No 🗌
3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes \(\subseteq \) No \(\subseteq \)					No 🗌		
	If an agency is proposing a more costly rule, please state the following:						
	(a) How the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;						
	(b) The reason for adoption of the more costly rule;(c) Whether the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, please explain; and;						
	(d) Whether the reason is within the scope of the agency's statutory authority; and if so, please explain.					so, please	
4.	4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please state the following:(a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?						
<u>Cı</u>	ırrent	t Fiscal Ye	<u>ar</u>		Next Fiscal Year		
General Revenue \$ Federal Funds \$ Federal Funds \$ Cash Funds Special Revenue Other (Identify) General Revenue \$ Federal Funds \$ Special Revenue Other (Identify)							

Total	\$		Total	\$	
(b) W	hat is the addition	nal cost of the state re	ıle?		
<u>Curren</u>	t Fiscal Year		Next Fiscal Year		
Federal Cash Fu Special	Funds \$0 nds Revenue		Federal F Cash Fun Special R	funds ids Levenue	\$0 \$0
Total	\$0		Total	_	\$ 0
	, amended, or repaffected.		the entity(ies) subje	ct to the pr	and business subject to the roposed rule and explain how
\$ 0	<u>scai y ear</u>		<u>Next Fiso</u> \$ <u>0</u>	cai y ear	_
or obligate private er two (2) of	tion of at least on atity, private busi r more of those e	e hundred thousand oness, state governmentities combined?	dollars (\$100,000) point, county government	er year to a	ipal government, or to
time of fi	ling the financial	ired by Ark. Code A impact statement. T statement and shall in	he written findings s	shall be fil	ed simultaneously
(1) a state	ement of the rule	s basis and purpose;			
` ′	oblem the agency is required by st		th the proposed rule,	including	a statement of whether
	<u>*</u>	etual evidence that: ency's need for the pr	roposed rule; and		
(b	describes how the rule's costs	the benefits of the rule;	le meet the relevant s	statutory o	bjectives and justify

- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
 - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
 - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
 - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.

DHS Telemedicine COVID-19 Response Manual

Why is this change necessary? Please provide the circumstances that necessitate the change.

The rule is needed to render maximum assistance to the citizens of Arkansas so the Department of Human Services (DHS) may continue to provide services to its clients between the expiration of the public health emergency through the end of the year. The temporary provisions amend certain rules and provide guidance, safeguarding DHS with adequate time to close out temporary measures that will no longer be needed in coming months without creating a financial risk for the state.

What does the Arkansas COVID-19 Response Manual cover?

DHS identified certain rules needing temporary revision and the necessity of continuing guidance to providers and clients so that services provided by the agency are available for the remainder of the year or through the national health emergency. The rule continues certain rule suspensions and issued guidance that began in March 2020. The provisions in the rule are temporary, expiring either on December 31, 2021, or upon the end of the federal national health emergency, as detailed in the rule.

What is the change? Please provide a summary of the change(s).

DHS issues revisions, suspensions, and guidance in relation to certain rules. The affected areas and rules manuals affected are contained in the following chart.

Division	DMS COVID-19 Response Manual	Regular Manual		
	Section Number & Title			
DDS	241.000—First Connections Developmental	Developmental Rehabilitation Services		
	Therapy Telemedicine	Medicaid Provider Manual		
DDS	244.000—Telemedicine for Occupational,	Occupational, Physical, Speech-Language		
	Physical, and Speech Therapist and Assistants	Therapy Services Medicaid Provider Manual		
DDS	245.000—Telemedicine for Applied Behavioral	Child Health Services/Early and Periodic		
	Analysis (ABA) by a BCBA	Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)		
		Medicaid Provider Manual		
DDS	246.000—Telemedicine for Autism Waiver	Autism Waiver Medicaid Provider Manual		
DMS	260.102—Telemedicine Originating site	Medicaid Provider Manual Section I		
	requirements for advanced practice registered			
	nurses			
DMS	260.103—Telemedicine originating site	Medicaid Provider Manual Section I		
	requirements to allow services to a beneficiary			
	in his or her home through date of service			
	December 31, 2021.			
DMS	265.100—Behavioral Health Telemedicine	Outpatient Behavioral Health Services –		
	Services	Medicaid Provider Manual		

NOTICE OF RULE MAKING

The Director of the Division of Medical Services of the Department of Human Services announces for a public comment period of thirty (30) calendar days a notice of rulemaking for the following proposed rules under one or more of the following chapters, subchapters, or sections of the Arkansas Code: §§ 20-76-201, 20-77-107, and 25-10-129.

Effective July 1, 2021:

The Director of the Division of Medical Services (DMS) is establishing temporary rules and suspending current rules due to the continuing declaration of a National Public Health Emergency. The suspension of current rules implements one or more portions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Public Law No. 116-127, including the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law No. 116-136, and implements U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services guidance.

Suspending these rules allow providers to render maximum assistance to the citizens of Arkansas and provide uninterrupted services. These suspensions shall automatically end December 31, 2021. DMS establishes methods to use teletherapy to provide developmental and consultative services. This includes service and billing requirements. DMS outlines allowable telemedicine services provided by licensed occupational, physical, or speech therapists or assistants with service and billing requirements. Telemedicine is allowed for established patients for Applied Behavioral Analysis services with service and billing requirements. The rules also address telemedicine under the Autism Waiver. Originating site requirements are suspended, and guidance issued for out-of-state physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants use of telemedicine. For Behavioral Health, certain face-to-face treatment requirements, telemedicine service limitations for beneficiaries over age twenty-one, limitations related to substance abuse assessments, and face-to face-service requirements for crisis intervention are suspended with billing requirement codes listed for use.

The proposed rules are available for review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Rules Promulgation, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. You may also access and download the proposed rules at https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/do-business-with-dhs/proposed-rules/. Public comments must be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov. All public comments must be received by DHS no later than May 10, 2021. Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter's name and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available and may be seen by various people.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact the Office of Rules Promulgation at 501-396-6428.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed, and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color or national origin. 4501960528

Janet/Mann, Director

Division of Medical Services