**Telehealth Definition**

"Telehealth means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient's health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers."

- California Business and Professions Code Sec. 2290.5

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**AB 2780**
Established minimum standards for audio and visual telemedicine systems; required DHCS report on expanded application of telemedicine as potential Medi-Cal benefits.

**SB 1665**
California's landmark Telemedicine Development Act of 1996 established requirements regarding telemedicine payment and provision of care.

**AB 442**
Required DHCS to allow psychiatrists to receive fee-for-service telemedicine Medi-Cal reimbursement (to sunset January 1, 2009).

**AB 329**
Authorized the Medical Board of California to establish a pilot program to expand the practice of telemedicine.

**AB 175**
Expanded the definition of teleophthalmology by store and forward to include asynchronous transmissions by a licensed optometrist, for purposes of Medi-Cal reimbursement.

**AB 354**
Authorized reimbursement for teleophthalmology and teledermatology by store and forward by Medi-Cal (to sunset January 1, 2009).

**AB 2120**
Extended the sunset date for Medi-Cal reimbursement of teleophthalmology and teledermatology by store and forward until January 1, 2013.

**AB 415**
Updated the Telemedicine Act of 1996. Replaced term "telemedicine" with telehealth; broadened range of telehealth services; expanded telehealth providers to all licensed healthcare professionals; removed limits on the location; eliminated email/telephone ban; removed other Medi-Cal restrictions; removed sunset date for store-and-forward services; eased credentialing procedures; required verbal informed consent.

**SB 33**
Increased the number of hours of experience required for a marriage and family therapist licensure applicant to no more than 375 hours of providing services via telemedicine.

**AB 1733**
Clarified that telehealth provisions apply to all publicly supported programs under Medi-Cal, and PACE program; require telehealth practitioners to practice according to the regulations relating to their profession.

**SB 922**
Excluded telephone conversations and electronic mail messages from telemedicine definition; clarified laws related to medical information/records and surrogate decisions.

**AB 116**
Applied telemedicine provisions to dentists, podiatrists, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and clinical social workers.

**AB 409**
Required health care providers initiating telehealth to obtain and document verbal or written consent from the patient.

**AB 1174**
Required Medi-Cal reimbursement for store and forward tele-dentistry.