CENTER FOR CONNECTED HEALTH POLICY (CCHP) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to advance state and national telehealth policy to promote improvements in health systems and greater health equity.
DISCLAIMERS

• Any information provided in today’s talk is not to be regarded as legal advice. Today’s talk is purely for informational purposes.
• Always consult with legal counsel.
• CCHP has no relevant financial interest, arrangement, or affiliation with any organizations related to commercial products or services discussed in this program.
ABOUT CCHP

• Established in 2009 as a program under the Public Health Institute
• Became federally designated national telehealth policy resource center in 2012 through a grant from HRSA
• Work with a variety of funders and partners on the state and federal levels
• Administrator National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers
• Convener for California Telehealth Policy Coalition
# Telehealth Policy Changes in COVID-19

## Federal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicare Issue</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Limit</td>
<td>Waived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site limitation</td>
<td>Waived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider List</td>
<td>Expanded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services Eligible</td>
<td>Added additional 80 codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit limits</td>
<td>Waived certain limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modality</td>
<td>Live Video, Phone, some srvs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision requirements</td>
<td>Relaxed some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>Relaxed requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech-Enabled/Comm-Based</td>
<td>More codes eligible for phone &amp; allowed PTs/OTs/SLPs &amp; other use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Medicaid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid Issue</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modality</td>
<td>Allowing phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Allowing home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consent</td>
<td>Relaxed consent requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Expanded types of services eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers</td>
<td>Allowed other providers such as allied health pros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>Waived some requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- DEA – PHE prescribing exception/allowed phone for suboxone for OUD
- HIPAA – OCR will not fine during this time
CONNECT ACT FOR HEALTH

- **Author:** Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) S 1512
- **Removing Barriers to Telehealth Coverage**
  - Home allowed to be eligible site for all services
  - Geographic limitation removed
  - FQHCs/RHCs added to list of eligible providers, would receive PPS rate
  - Geographic limitation not apply to an Indian Health Services facility or if providing emergency care
  - No facility fees for some of these new exceptions like the home

As of September 2018

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Removing Barriers to Telehealth Coverage – Secretary Powers

- Secretary provided with authority to waive certain limitations
  - Originating site
  - Geographic limitations
  - Limits on technology used
  - Limits on practitioners who can use telehealth and be reimbursed
  - Types of services covered
  - Any other limitation Secretary deems necessary
  - Able to set policies and fee schedule for these waivers
Program Integrity

• Provide the Inspector General in HHS $3 million to conduct audits, investigations and other duties to ensure program integrity
• Secretary shall make training and education resources available to providers and beneficiaries so they’re aware of these changes
Data and Testing Models
- Secretary will collect and analyze data for both telehealth and communications technology-based services (CTBS)
  - Utilization rate
  - Quality
  - Health outcomes
  - Audio-only
- Interim & final report to Congress
- Analysis of telehealth waivers in alternative payment models
Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act of 2021

There are three main sections to the CONNECT Act:
1. Removing Barriers to Telehealth Coverage
2. Program Integrity
3. Data and Testing of Models

Removing Barriers to Telehealth Coverage

Enabling telehealth reimbursement policy typically has four areas in which the policy in question reaches. Medicare telehealth policy is no different. These areas are:

- Modality Used
- Location of Patient
- Providers
- Services Covered

The CONNECT Act is varying impact, with impact all four policy areas.
CCHP Website – cchpca.org

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Thank You!

www.cchpca.org

info@cchpca.org