

1 AN ACT relating to telehealth.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 211.336 is amended to read as follows:

4 If a state agency authorized or required to promulgate administrative regulations relating
5 to telehealth chooses to promulgate an administrative regulation relating to telehealth, the
6 state agency:

7 (1) Shall:

8 (a) Use terminology consistent with the glossary of telehealth terminology
9 established by the cabinet pursuant to KRS 211.334; and

10 (b) Comply with the minimum requirements established by the cabinet pursuant
11 to KRS 211.334;

12 (2) Shall not:

13 (a) Require a provider to be physically present with the recipient, unless the state
14 agency or provider determines that it is medically necessary to perform those
15 services in person;

16 (b) Require prior authorization, medical review, or administrative clearance for
17 telehealth that would not be required if a service were provided in person;

18 (c) Require a provider to be employed by another provider or agency in order to
19 provide telehealth services that would not be required if that service were
20 provided in person;

21 (d) Require demonstration that it is necessary to provide services to a patient
22 through telehealth;

23 (e) Restrict or deny coverage of telehealth based solely on the communication
24 technology or application used to deliver the telehealth services;

25 (f) Prohibit the delivery of telehealth services to a person located in Kentucky by
26 a provider who is a participant in a recognized interstate compact and delivers
27 telehealth services to a person in Kentucky under the standards and provisions

1 of that interstate compact;

2 (g) Prohibit an insurer or managed care organization from utilizing audits for
3 medical coding accuracy in the review of telehealth services specific to audio-
4 only encounters;~~[-or]~~

5 (h) Require a provider to be part of a telehealth network;~~[-and]~~

6 (i) Prohibit the delivery of telehealth services to a person who is a permanent
7 resident of Kentucky who is temporarily located outside of Kentucky by a
8 provider who is credentialed by a Kentucky professional licensure board;

9 (j) Prohibit the delivery of telehealth services to a person who is not a
10 permanent resident of Kentucky who is temporarily located in Kentucky by
11 a provider who is credentialed by a professional licensure board in the
12 person's state of permanent residence; or

13 (k) Require a health care provider to be physically located in the state that he or
14 she is credentialed in by a professional licensure board in order to provide
15 telehealth services to a person who is a permanent resident of the same
16 state. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to imply that the
17 Kentucky Medicaid program would be responsible for reimbursement for
18 any services provided in Kentucky by a provider not credentialed by the
19 Kentucky Medicaid program; and

20 (3) May promulgate administrative regulations, which shall be no more restrictive than
21 administrative regulations for providers who deliver healthcare services in person,
22 to establish additional requirements relating to telehealth, including requirements:

23 (a) For the proper use and security of telehealth;

24 (b) To address emergency situations, including but not limited to suicidal
25 ideations or plans; threats to self or others; evidence of dependency, neglect,
26 or abuse; or other life-threatening conditions;

27 (c) To prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of telehealth services, both in general and

- 1 specific to the provision of telehealth services delivered via audio-only
2 encounters; or
- 3 (d) That a telehealth provider be licensed in Kentucky, or as allowed under the
4 standards and provisions of a recognized interstate compact, in order to
5 receive reimbursement for telehealth services.