



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: March 13, 2020
Contact: See below

TO: All Providers

RE: CMAP COVID-19 Response – Bulletin 1: Emergency Temporary Telemedicine Coverage

As an interim measure in response to the Governor’s recent declaration of a public health emergency as the result of the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Department of Social Services (DSS) is temporarily expanding portions of telemedicine coverage effective for dates of service from March 13, 2020 until the Department has notified providers in writing that the state has deemed COVID-19 no longer to be a public health emergency (the “Temporary Effective Period”). Please refer to **PB 2020-09** for the Department’s general telemedicine coverage parameters. Except as otherwise specified below, all provisions of PB 2020-09 remain in effect.

Note: Please carefully review the entirety of both this bulletin and PB 2020-09.

As detailed below, the following temporary expansions are being made to the CMAP telemedicine policy communicated under PB 2020-09, effective only during the Temporary Effective Period:

- Waiving the homebound requirements for all otherwise coverable medical telemedicine services;
- Addition of specified “New Patient” Evaluation and Management (E&M) Services; and
- Waiving the originating site requirements for psychiatric diagnostic evaluations.

Waiving the homebound requirements for all otherwise coverable medical telemedicine services:

During the Temporary Effective Period, members do not need to meet CMAP’s homebound criteria in order to obtain otherwise coverable medical services via telemedicine as detailed in PB 2020-09. There is no limitation on the originating site (location of the member at the time of the telemedicine service), including, but not limited to, the member’s home, so long as the provider complies with all other applicable requirements. Therefore, otherwise coverable medical telemedicine services may be provided to all Medicaid members in accordance with standard applicable requirements.

Evaluation and Management Services:

During the Temporary Effective Period, DSS is adding the following “new patient” evaluation and management (E/M) services as coverable medical telemedicine services to those already outlined in PB 2020-09.

Procedure Code	Short Description
99201-99205	Office/outpatient visit new

Please see **Table 1** - of PB 2020-09 for additional E/M services that are approved to be rendered via telemedicine.

Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluations:

During the Temporary Effective Period, there is no limitation on the originating site (location of the member at the time of the telemedicine service) for a member receiving a psychiatric diagnostic evaluation, including, but not limited to, the member’s home, so long as the

provider complies with all other applicable requirements.

Procedure Codes	Short Descriptor
90791	Psych diag eval
90792	Psych diag eval w/E&M

In addition to the E/M codes listed in this bulletin, please refer to **Table 1** of PB 2020-09 for additional services that are permissible to be rendered via telemedicine.

ICD-10-CM Coding

Providers should follow the CDC ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines to ensure proper coding.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICD-10-CM-Official-Coding-Guidance-Interim-Advice-coronavirus-feb-20-2020.pdf>

Other Response Measures to COVID-19

In addition to the changes detailed in this bulletin, DSS also plans to implement other measures under CMAP to address the needs of CMAP members and the provider community in response to COVID-19. Additional guidance will be forthcoming related to various topics, such as non-emergency medical transportation, HUSKY B, pharmacy, and other COVID-19 changes under separate provider bulletins.

For questions about billing or if further assistance is needed to access the fee schedules on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site, please contact the Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

Posting Instructions:

Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution:

This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by DXC Technology.

Responsible Units:

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