Issue: H.R. 197  Rural Telehealth Expansion Act  
Sponsor: Representative Matthew M Rosendale Sr. (Rep-R-MT-2)

To amend title XVIII of the SSA to include store-and forward technologies as telecommunications systems through which telehealth services may be furnished for payment

Related bills:

- H.R. 1110 Keep Telehealth Options Act 2023 (5 Cosponsors)  
  Sponsor: Representative Troy Balderson (Rep-R-OH-12)

- S. 730 Enhance Access to Support Essential Behavioral Health Services Act through Telehealth.  
  Sponsor: Senator John Kennedy (R-LA)

- S. 1512 Connect for Health Act of 2021  
  Sponsor: Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

- H.R. 1332  Telehealth Modernization Act  
  Sponsor: Representative Earl Carter (R-GA-1)

AAHAMP supports the collective focus to improve the delivery of healthcare by continuing to provide telehealth services as a means to deliver healthcare services to all communities that include rural and the underserved as well as to continue shape the current and future landscape of the role telehealth medicine will play in healthcare.

Background:

Over the last two years, the rapid growth and widely adopted use of telehealth services has allowed physicians, clinicians and Nurse Practitioners to deliver a wide range of services in an unprecedented and cost effective approach. We need to continue this momentum by asking congress to enact legislation already introduced that reinforces the less stringent restrictions put into place due to the Public Health Emergency such as continuing the permanent removal of geographic restrictions on originating sites and allows the patients home to serve as the
originating site for services. We also ask that CMS to continue to allow federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics to continue to serve as the distant site as the location of the healthcare practitioner as well as to permanently waive all coverage restrictions.

The overall benefits of continuing the ease of telehealth restrictions as states unwind the public health emergency are vast. By passing proposed legislation already in place, it will cast a wide net in the continuation of care, allows the recipients the benefits of extended hours, less frequency in cancellations of visits and plays a big part in helping solve the shortage of physicians in rural and underserved communities.

AAHAM would urge Congress to pass legislation whereby CMS will continue to make payment for a broader scope of telehealth services along with reimbursement for telehealth visits to be paid at the rate as a regular in-person visits and continue reimbursement for professional services provided to patients in all settings and all areas across the country.

Listed below are CMSs summary of the Type of Services along with the billable HCPCS/CPT codes that need to remain in effect.

### Summary of Medicare Telemedicine Services

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<th>TYPE OF SERVICE</th>
<th>WHAT IS THE SERVICE?</th>
<th>HCPCS/CPT CODE</th>
<th>Patient Relationship with Provider</th>
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| **MEDICARE TELEHEALTH VISITS** | A visit with a provider that uses telecommunication systems between a provider and a patient. | • 99201-99215 (Office or other outpatient visits)  
• G0425-G0427 (Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial inpatient)  
• G0406-G0408 (Follow-up inpatient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs) | For new* or established patients.  
*To the extent the 1135 waiver requires an established relationship, HHS will not conduct audits to ensure that such a prior relationship existed for claims submitted during this public health emergency |
| **VIRTUAL CHECK-IN**      | A brief (5-10 minutes) check in with your practitioner via telephone or other telecommunications device to decide whether an office visit or other service is needed. A remote evaluation of recorded video and/or images submitted by an established patient. | • HCPCS code G2012  
• HCPCS code G2010 | For established patients. |
| **E-VISITS**              | A communication between a patient and their provider through an online patient portal. | • 99421  
• 99422  
• 99423  
• G2061  
• G2062  
• G2063 | For established patients. |
AAHAM is steadfast in making sure that all patients are treated equitably, fairly and with dignity and respect. AAHAM strongly supports and encourages Congress to enact already proposed legislation regarding Telehealth Expansion and hoping that they will promote bipartisan support.

AAHAM supports H.R. 197 in its quest to include “store-and-forward” technology that will allow a clinician the time to review patient’s data before beginning a telehealth visit by storing clinical information before it is forwarded to another site for clinical evaluation. This data can include Xray’s, MRIs, and even video exam clips.

Continued federal investment in Telehealth is needed to achieve healthcare equality by improving broadband connectivity and closing the gap of the digital divide by increasing access and improving technology literacy for the vulnerable populations. AAHAM applauds The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) efforts as they are in the midst in addressing these issues with the “Universal Service Fund and the Rural Health Program and Connected Care Pilot Program.

Conclusion:

Telehealth medicine expansion has brought forth one of the biggest improvements in delivery of care. The benefits of Telehealth medicine are numerous and include timely and improved access to healthcare for all populations, lower medical costs and affordability, reduced emergency room use and improve overall patient satisfaction.

ABOUT AAHAM: AAHAM is the premier professional organization for revenue cycle professionals and is known for its prestigious certification and educational programs; professional development of its members is one of the primary goals of the association. AAHAM is also recognized for its quarterly journal, The Journal of Healthcare Administrative Management, and its Annual National Institute, held each fall. AAHAM actively represents the interests of its members through a comprehensive program of legislative and regulatory monitoring and participation in industry groups. For more information regarding AAHAM and its programs, please visit www.aaham.org.