



Major Changes Announced by CMS for Telehealth

March 17, 2020

(Information provided by APMA)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced major changes to services that podiatrists can furnish remotely under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. This waiver allows Medicare to pay for office, hospital, and other visits furnished via telehealth. ***This change means podiatrists can submit CPT 99201–99215 when these services are provided remotely.***

Any device that has interactive audio and video and allows real time communication may be used. Providers are permitted to reduce or waive cost-sharing for these services if they wish during the Public Health Emergency. Additionally, CMS shared that typical HIPAA guidance does not apply to these services as long as health-care providers are providing these services in good faith. FaceTime and Skype were given as examples of services we can use to provide these services.

When submitting these services, the normal CPT 99201–99215 codes may be used and no special modifiers are necessary. Place of Service “02” (the location where health services and health related services are provided or received, through a telecommunication system) should be used when submitting these claims. Evaluation and management services will be paid at the facility rate and, when medically necessary, can be provided for any pathology, whether or not it is related to COVID-19.

The guidance provided in the March 16 [webinar](#) is all still accurate and still an option, but this announcement allows more flexibility in the services we can provide to our patients during this emergency.

Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association
1350 Main Street, Suite 1508
Springfield, MA 01103-1670

P: 860.586.7512
F: 413.747.7777
cpma.org