

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAID AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Statutory Authority: 31 Delaware Code, Section 512 (31 Del.C. §512)

PROPOSED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Telemedicine

In compliance with the State's Administrative Procedures Act (APA - Title 29, Chapter 101 of the Delaware Code), with 42 CFR §447.205 and under the authority of Title 31 of the Delaware Code, Chapter 5, Section 512, Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) / Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) intends to submit a state plan amendment regarding telemedicine, specifically, *to clarify provider types authorized to deliver medically necessary services via telemedicine.*

Any person who wishes to make written suggestions, compilations of data, testimony, briefs or other written materials concerning the proposed new regulations must submit same to Sharon L. Summers, Planning & Policy Development Unit, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance, 1901 North DuPont Highway, P.O. Box 906, New Castle, Delaware 19720-0906 or by fax to 302-255-4425 by July 31, 2014.

The action concerning the determination of whether to adopt the proposed regulation will be based upon the results of Department and Division staff analysis and the consideration of the comments and written materials filed by other interested persons.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The proposed provides notice to the public that Delaware Health and Social Services/Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DHSS/DMMA) intends to submit a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding telemedicine *to clarify provider types authorized to deliver medically necessary services via telemedicine.*

Statutory Authority

- 42 CFR 410.78, *Telehealth services*
- 42 CFR Part 440, *Services*

Background

For the purposes of Medicaid, telemedicine seeks to improve a patient's health by permitting two-way, real time interactive communication between the patient, and the physician or practitioner at the distant site. This electronic communication means the use of interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and visual equipment. This definition is modeled on Medicare's definition of telehealth services (42 CFR §410.78).

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Medicaid program and the federal Medicaid statute (Title XIX of the Social Security Act) does not recognize telemedicine as a distinct service. CMS does note, however, that "telemedicine is viewed as a cost-effective alternative to the more traditional face-to-face way of providing medical care" (e.g., face-to-face consultations or examinations between provider and patient) that states can choose to cover under Medicaid and that there is "flexibility inherent in federal law to create innovative payment methodologies for services that incorporate telemedicine technology."

Summary of Proposal

Effective July 2, 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a state plan amendment to use the telemedicine delivery system for providers enrolled under the Delaware Medical Assistance Program (DMAP).

The Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) proposes to amend Attachment 3.1-A of the Medicaid State Plan to clarify that qualifying provider services include any covered state plan services that would typically be provided to an eligible individual in a face-to-face setting by an enrolled provider.

The provisions of this state plan amendment are subject to approval by CMS.

Fiscal Impact Statement

This revision imposes no increase in cost on the General Fund as current policy allows for the use of telemedicine.

DMMA PROPOSED REGULATION #14-25
REVISION:

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE/TERRITORY: DELAWARE

TELEMEDICINE – CONTINUED

PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS

In order to provide telemedicine under DMAP, providers at both the originating and distant site must be enrolled with DMAP or have contractual agreements with the managed care organizations (MCOs) and must meet all requirements for their discipline as specified in the Medicaid State Plan.

For services delivered through telemedicine technology from DMAP or MCOs to be covered, healthcare practitioners must:

- Act within their scope of practice;
- Be licensed (in Delaware, or the State in which the provider is located if exempted under Delaware State law to provide telemedicine services without a Delaware license) for the service for which they bill DMAP;
- Be enrolled with DMAP/MCOs;
- Be located within the continental United States.

COVERED SERVICES

DMAP covers medically necessary telemedicine services and procedures covered under the Title XIX State Plan. Qualifying provider services include any covered State Plan services that would typically be provided to an eligible individual in a face-to-face setting by an enrolled provider. Telemedicine is not limited based on the diagnosed medical condition of the eligible recipient. All telemedicine services must be furnished within the limits of provider program policies and within the scope and practice of the provider's professional standards as described and outlined in DMAP Provider Manuals which can be found at:

<http://www.dmap.state.de.us/downloads/manuals.html>

NON-COVERED SERVICES

If a service is not covered in a face-to-face setting, it is not covered if provided through telemedicine. A service provided through telemedicine is subject to the same program restrictions, limitations and coverage which exist for the service when not provided through telemedicine.

18 DE Reg. 9 (07/01/14) (Prop.)