STATE OF NEW YORK

8416

IN SENATE

May 24, 2020

Introduced by Sen. METZGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to including audio-only and video-only telehealth and telemedicine services in those telehealth and telemedicine services eligible for reimbursement

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 2999-cc of the public health law, as added by chapter 6 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

4. "Telehealth" means the use of electronic information and communication technologies by telehealth providers to deliver health care services, which shall include the assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management and/or self-management of a patient. Telehealth shall not include delivery of health care services by means of [~~audio-only telephone communication,~~] facsimile machines, or electronic messaging alone, though use of these technologies is not precluded if used in conjunction with telemedicine, store and forward technology, or remote patient monitoring. For purposes of this section, telehealth shall be limited to telemedicine, store and forward technology, [~~and~~] remote patient monitoring **and audio-only telephone communication, except that with respect to the medical assistance program established under section three hundred sixty-six of the social services law, and the child health insurance plan under title one-A of article twenty-five of this chapter, telehealth shall include audio-only telephone communication only to the extent defined in regulations as may be promulgated by the commissioner**. This subdivision shall not preclude the delivery of health care services by means of "home telehealth" as used in section thirty-six hundred fourteen of this chapter.

§ 2. Section 2999-ee of the public health law, as added by section 3 of part HH of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2999-ee. Increased application of telehealth. In order to increase the application of telehealth in behavioral health, oral health, mater-

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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nity care, care management, services provided in emergency departments, and services provided to certain high-need populations to the extent such services are deemed appropriate for the populations served, and notwithstanding the definitions set forth in section twenty-nine hundred ninety-nine-cc of this article, in consultation with the commissioner of the office of children and family services, the commissioner of the office of mental health, the commissioner of the office of addiction services and supports, or the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities, as applicable, the commissioner may specify in regulation additional acceptable modalities for the delivery of health care services via telehealth, including but not limited to audio-only **or video-only** telephone communications, online portals and survey applications, and may specify additional categories of originating sites at which a patient may be located at the time health care services are delivered to the extent such additional modalities and originating sites are deemed appropriate for the populations served.

§ 3. Subdivision 1 of section 2999-dd of the public health law, as amended by section 2 of part HH of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

1. Health care services delivered by means of telehealth shall be entitled to reimbursement under section three hundred sixty-seven-u of the social services law; provided however, reimbursement for additional modalities, provider categories and originating sites specified in accordance with section twenty-nine hundred ninety-nine-ee of this article**, and audio-only telephone communication defined in regulations promulgated pursuant to subdivision four of section twenty-nine hundred ninety-nine-cc of this article,** shall be contingent upon federal financial participation.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.