

Chapter 141

(Senate Bill 198)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Telemedicine

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide certain reimbursement for certain services delivered by telemedicine~~ requiring, to the extent authorized by federal law or regulation, certain provisions of law relating to coverage of and reimbursement for health care services delivered through telemedicine to apply to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and managed care organizations in a certain manner; authorizing the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to allow coverage of and reimbursement for health care services delivered in a certain manner under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to specify by regulation the types of health care providers eligible to receive certain reimbursement; repealing the limitations on the health care services delivered by telemedicine that are eligible for reimbursement; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and telemedicine.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 15–105.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Insurance
Section 15–130(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

15–105.2.

(a) The Program shall reimburse health care providers in accordance with the requirements of Title 19, Subtitle 1, Part IV of this article.

(b) ~~[(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and unless]~~ **UNLESS** otherwise specifically prohibited or limited by federal or State law, the Program shall reimburse a health care provider for a health care service delivered by telemedicine, as defined in § 15-139 of the Insurance Article, in the same manner as the same health care service is reimbursed when delivered in person.

~~[(2) Reimbursement under paragraph (1) of this subsection is required only for a health care service that:~~

~~(i) Is medically necessary; and~~

~~(ii) Is provided:~~

~~1. For the treatment of cardiovascular disease or stroke;~~

~~2. In an emergency department setting; and~~

~~3. When an appropriate specialist is not available~~

(1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(II) “HEALTH CARE PROVIDER” MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS OR PRACTICE OF A PROFESSION OR IN AN APPROVED EDUCATION OR TRAINING PROGRAM.

(III) 1. “TELEMEDICINE” MEANS, AS IT RELATES TO THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES, THE USE OF INTERACTIVE AUDIO, VIDEO, OR OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY:

A. BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO DELIVER A HEALTH CARE SERVICE THAT IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AT A SITE OTHER THAN THE SITE AT WHICH THE PATIENT IS LOCATED; AND

B. THAT ENABLES THE PATIENT TO SEE AND INTERACT WITH THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AT THE TIME THE HEALTH CARE SERVICE IS PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT.

2. “TELEMEDICINE” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

A. AN AUDIO-ONLY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND A PATIENT;

B. AN ELECTRONIC MAIL MESSAGE BETWEEN A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND A PATIENT; OR

C. A FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION BETWEEN A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND A PATIENT.

(2) TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION, THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-139(C) THROUGH (F) OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE RELATING TO COVERAGE OF AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED THROUGH TELEMEDICINE SHALL APPLY TO THE PROGRAM AND MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SAME MANNER THEY APPLY TO CARRIERS.

(3) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET AND TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AUTHORIZE COVERAGE OF AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT ARE DELIVERED THROUGH STORE AND FORWARD TECHNOLOGY OR REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING.

(4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SPECIFY BY REGULATION THE TYPES OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED TO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

~~(3)~~ (5) The Department shall adopt regulations to carry out this subsection.†

~~Article Insurance~~

~~15-139.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section, "telemedicine" means, as it relates to the delivery of health care services, the use of interactive audio, video, or other telecommunications or electronic technology by a licensed health care provider to deliver a health care service within the scope of practice of the health care provider at a site other than the site at which the patient is located.~~

~~(2) "Telemedicine" does not include:~~

~~(i) an audio only telephone conversation between a health care provider and a patient;~~

~~(ii) an electronic mail message between a health care provider and a patient; or~~

~~(iii) a facsimile transmission between a health care provider and a patient.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.