


To: All Providers Participating in Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director 
Date: April 10, 2020
Re: Telehealth Services for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy

Nebraska Medicaid is temporarily modifying certain policies to enable delivery of remote care through telehealth. These services may be billed retrospective to March 1, 2020. These changes are to facilitate access for patients experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and to limit close contact for routine care, particularly for individuals at higher risk of severe illness.

Nebraska Medicaid PT/OT/Speech codes are included as part of the temporary expansion of telehealth services as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Telehealth or teletherapy services include audio and visual contact.

Therapists must ensure services can safely and effectively be delivered via telehealth. Patient safety must be carefully considered and situations in which a caregiver or facilitator is necessary to assist in delivery of teletherapy. The caregiver or facilitator’s ability to assist and their safety should also be considered.

All treatments or services submitted for reimbursement must be delivered in accordance with existing service definitions. All treatments and services are expected to be rendered in a clinically appropriate manner and be directly related to the beneficiary’s treatment needs or treatment plan. Providers are expected to document the rationale for delivery of treatment or services through teletherapy in addition to existing documentation requirements. Include the GT modifier when billing for services provided through teletherapy.

Nebraska Medicaid is working closely with local, state, and federal partners to monitor the unfolding situation regarding the COVID-19 emergency. Additional information regarding Nebraska Medicaid policies about COVID-19 will be shared through future Provider Bulletins.

Category	CPT Code Teletherapy Allowed	Description
Physical Therapy	97161	Physical therapy evaluation - low complexity
	97162	Physical therapy evaluation - moderate complexity
	97163	Physical therapy evaluation – high complexity
	97164	Physical therapy re-evaluation
	97110	Therapeutic procedure, one or more areas, each 15 minutes
	97112	Therapeutic procedure, one or more areas, each 15 minutes
	97116	Gait training
	97530	Therapeutic activities, one-to-one patient contact, each 15 minutes

Category	CPT Code Teletherapy Allowed	Description
Occupational Therapy		
	97165	Occupational therapy evaluation - low complexity
	97166	Occupational therapy evaluation - moderate complexity
	97167	Occupational therapy evaluation - high complexity
	97168	Occupational therapy re-evaluation
	97110	Therapeutic procedure, one or more areas, each 15 minutes
	97112	Therapeutic procedure, one or more areas, each 15 minutes
	97530	Therapeutic activities, one-to-one patient contact, each 15 minutes

Category	CPT Code Teletherapy Allowed	Description
Speech Therapy		
	92507	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; individual
	92508	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; group, 2 or more individuals
	92521	Evaluation of speech fluency
	92522	Evaluation of speech sound production
	92523	Evaluation of speech sound production
	92526	Treatment of swallowing dysfunction and/or oral function for feeding

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>