

WHA Position

More and more research suggests telehealth can help improve patient care while reducing or maintaining overall health care costs.

- Unfortunately, Medicare restrictions prevent health care providers from receiving reimbursement for telehealth delivered in the home, or in urban settings.
- WHA supports efforts to lift Medicare restrictions so Wisconsin health care providers can deliver more effective and efficient care.

WHA Ask:

Please support the bipartisan CONNECT for Health Act of 2019 H.R.4932 & S. 2741 that would lift unnecessary barriers to telehealth in Medicare.

WHA Staff Contact

Jon Hoelter
Director of Federal & State Relations
jhoelter@wha.org

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Remove Barriers to Telehealth Innovation

Support Proposals that Lift Medicare Site Restrictions

Highlights

- Telehealth can remove barriers to accessing health care services while reducing or maintaining overall health care costs.
- Medicare site restrictions are significant barriers to improving telehealth usage.
- WHA is working to remove telehealth barriers in the State Medicaid program, but needs federal lawmakers to continue lifting barriers under Medicare.

Wisconsin Hospitals Need Your Help to Lift Medicare Telehealth Site Restrictions

More and more health care providers are using telehealth to improve access to patient care in everything from basic urgent care, to highly specialized services like stroke care. Unfortunately, federal statute prohibits Medicare from paying for telehealth services if the patient is located in an urban area or at home.

Congress & CMS Have Taken Positive Steps, but More Needs to be Done

In recent years, Congress and CMS have both taken steps to remove barriers on a piecemeal basis:

- The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 removed restrictions for telestroke and teledialysis services and allowed Medicare Advantage plans to offer more telehealth services.
- Bipartisan opioid reform legislation from 2018 removed restrictions for telehealth substance use or co-occurring mental health treatment.
- Since 2018, CMS has annually added new telehealth services in its physician fee schedule updates for services like remote patient monitoring and virtual check-ins.

While these are steps in the right direction, more needs to be done. Bipartisan legislation supported by WHA has been introduced in the House & Senate to lift even more restrictions. **WHA asks our Congressional delegation to support this and other opportunities that help Wisconsin hospitals innovate through telehealth.**

