

## WHA Position

Telehealth was a lifeline during the early days of COVID and has remained a convenient, effective, and popular way of accessing care.

- The public health emergency temporarily lifted statutory restrictions that otherwise prevent health care providers from receiving Medicare reimbursement for telehealth delivered in the home, or in urban settings.
- Congress must act to permanently lift these restrictions and preserve telehealth gains.

## WHA Ask:

***Please support bipartisan telehealth legislation that permanently removes barriers to Medicare patients accessing telehealth.***

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# Preserve Telehealth Gains

## Make Telehealth Flexibilities Permanent

### Highlights

- The COVID pandemic has been a sort of “proof of concept” that telehealth works.
- Both patients and providers have enjoyed the convenience and efficacy of telehealth that greatly expanded due to COVID.
- Congress needs to act to permanently remove the geographic and site restrictions that have been temporarily lifted during COVID.

### Wisconsin Hospitals Need Your Help to Keep Providing Telehealth Post-COVID

Prior to the flexibilities granted under the COVID public health emergencies, Medicare patients were severely limited in their ability to access telehealth because federal statutes prohibit Medicare from paying for telehealth services if a patient is located in an urban area or at home. WHA has advocated for lifting these restrictions since before COVID, and now what we have seen telehealth work, we need to remove them for good.

### Please Support Making Telehealth Flexibilities Permanent

A number of bipartisan bills have been introduced this Congress to permanently remove barriers for Medicare patients to access telehealth. Some with the most support include:

- **S. 1512 – The Connect for Health Act of 2021** – Senators Schatz (D-HI) & Wicker (R-MS)
- **H.R. 366 – Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2021** – Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA) & Bill Johnson (R-OH)
- **H.R. 1332 – Telehealth Modernization Act** – Reps. Earl “Buddy” Carter (R-GA) & Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Congress needs to act to ensure that health care providers and Medicare patients can continue to reap the benefits of telehealth even after the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency ends. ***WHA asks you to please cosponsor telehealth legislation and look for opportunities to include telehealth reform legislation in a larger package this Congress.***

