



April 3, 2020

**ATTENTION: South Dakota Medicaid Providers**

**FROM: South Dakota Medicaid**

**RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions**

This FAQ highlights covered services, coverage requirements, new coverage flexibilities being offered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Coverage outlined below is effective beginning March 13, 2020 unless otherwise noted.

#### **Where can I get information and updates about the coronavirus and COVID-19?**

Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>

Information about South Dakota's response and updates about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is available from the South Dakota Department of Health at <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>

#### **Does Medicaid cover testing and treatment for COVID-19?**

Yes. South Dakota Medicaid will cover testing for COVID-19 without cost sharing requirements.

Providers must use diagnosis code U07.1(COVID-19) on all claims submitted for testing and treatment of COVID-19.

#### **What code should providers use to bill testing for COVID-19?**

Providers should use the applicable newly designated HCPCS codes U0001 or U0002 to bill for testing for coronavirus (COVID-19). South Dakota Medicaid will accept these codes starting April 1, 2020 for services provided on or after February 4, 2020.

#### **What is the reimbursement rate for the test for COVID-19?**

South Dakota Medicaid's maximum allowable reimbursement rate for HCPCS code U0001 will be \$35.91 and \$51.31 for U0002. The rates are based on the South Dakota's Medicare Administrative (MAC) contractor rate.

#### **Will HCPCS U0001 and U0002 be available retroactively for billing?**

Yes, South Dakota Medicaid will follow Medicare's policy and make the code retroactively effective on February 4, 2020. The codes may be billed beginning April 1, 2020.

**Is a telemedicine visit covered?**

Yes, South Dakota Medicaid covers telemedicine services. The originating site and the distant site may be located in the same community if:

- The recipient resides in a nursing facility and the nursing facility is the originating site; or
- Telemedicine is being utilized primarily to reduce the risk of exposure of the provider, staff, or others to infection. Services may be provided via telemedicine when the distant site and originating site are in the same community to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

More information about telemedicine coverage is available in the [Telemedicine Billing and Policy Manual](#).

**Does South Dakota Medicaid's coverage for telehealth align with Medicare?**

Yes, South Dakota Medicaid expanded coverage during the public health emergency to include the same telehealth codes as Medicare with the exception of CPT codes 96138, 96139, 97535, 97761 99473, and 99483 which are not covered in any setting by SD Medicaid. A full list of covered CPT codes can be found in the [Telemedicine Billing and Policy Manual](#).

**Is a telemedicine visit covered if the patient participates from their home?**

Yes, the distant site service is covered even when the patient participates from home. When the patient participates from home, there is no reimbursement for a facility fee.

**Are there requirements regarding the location of a distant site for telemedicine services?**

Distant site services should be provided at a location consistent with any applicable laws or regulations regarding where services may be provided. South Dakota Medicaid does not have additional requirements regarding the distant site location other than the same community limitation stated in the telemedicine manual.

**How are telehealth distant site services reimbursed?**

Telehealth services are reimbursed as professional services according to the established rates on the [fee schedule](#) for each service; reimbursement for facility related charges for the distant site is not available.

**Is a telemedicine visit covered for therapy services?**

South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services provided via telemedicine for recipients and providers at high risk for COVID-19 or under quarantine or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19. The service must be provided by means of "real-time" interactive telecommunications system.

Use of telemedicine for the convenience of the provider or recipient is not covered.

A complete list of covered therapy codes can be found in the [telemedicine provider manual](#).

**Is a teledentistry visit covered?**

Effective March 16, 2020 Delta Dental South Dakota will cover claims for services conducted using tele-dentistry for HCPC D0140: Limited oral exam. The services must have sufficient audio and visual to be functionally equivalent to a face-to-face encounter. Reimbursement for tele-dentistry is equal to reimbursement for face-to-face encounters.

When reporting a service completed via tele-dentistry, providers are certifying the services rendered to the patient were functionally equivalent to a face-to-face encounter.

Providers should include the following codes on claims for services completed using tele-dentistry:

- D9995 – Tele-dentistry, synchronistic; real-time encounter
- D9996 – Tele-dentistry, asynchronistic; information stored and forwarded to dentist for subsequent review

### **Is telemedicine allowable for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Services?**

South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of ABA services provided via telemedicine for recipients and providers at high risk for COVID-19, under quarantine, or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19. The service must be provided by means of “real-time” interactive telecommunications system. Use of telemedicine for the convenience of the provider or recipient is not covered.

### **Is an audio-only telemedicine visit covered for behavioral health services?**

South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of audio-only telemedicine behavioral health services delivered by a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Agency, a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), or an Independent Mental Health Practitioner (IMHP) when the following circumstances exist:

- The provider or recipient is at high risk for COVID-19 or under quarantine or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19; **and**
- The recipient does not have access to face-to-face audio/visual telemedicine technology (including smart phone, tablet, computer, or WIFI/internet access).

SUD agencies, CMHCs, and IMHPs must utilize traditional audio/visual telemedicine technology when possible. Audio-only telemedicine is not covered when used for the convenience of the provider or recipient. Providers must document both conditions for the use of audio-only technology in the medical record. SUD agencies and CMHCs may contact the Division of Behavioral Health via email at [DSSBH@state.sd.us](mailto:DSSBH@state.sd.us) with further questions regarding the use of audio-only telemedicine technology.

### **Are audio only visits covered for physician services?**

Yes, South Dakota Medicaid is temporarily covering and reimbursing audio services for recipients who are actively experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The audio only service must meet the following criteria:

- The service must be initiated by the patient.
- The service should include patient history and/or assessment, and some degree of decision making.
- The service must be provided by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.
- The service must be 5 minutes or longer in order to bill 98966 or must meet the minimum time requirements for CPT codes 98967 and 98968.
- Services may be provided via telephone or via another device or service that allows real time audio communication.

Services must be billed using CPT codes 98966, 98967, 98968. claims should not be submitted to South Dakota Medicaid until April 8, 2020 or later.

FQHC/RHC and IHS/Tribal 638 providers may bill for telephonic evaluation and management services using codes 98966, 98967, 98968 and be reimbursed at the fee schedule rate. FQHC/RHCs must bill for the service using a non-PPS billing NPI. For more information regarding billing with a non-PPS billing NPI please refer to the [FQHC/RHC Service Manual](#).

### **Who is eligible to receive audio only physician services?**

Audio only physician services can be used for established patients if the recipient is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, at high risk for COVID-19, under quarantine, or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19.

Telephonic evaluation and management services are also covered for new patients experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Providers should refer to the guidance in the [Physician Services Manual](#) for additional information who is considered a “new patient” and who is considered an “established patient”

### **Can telemedicine be provided using everyday technology like Skype and FaceTime?**

DSS is following the [guidance](#) released by Medicare and HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR is exercising enforcement discretion and waiving penalties for HIPAA violations against health care providers that serve patients in good faith through everyday communications technologies, such as FaceTime or Skype, during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. South Dakota Medicaid recommends providers provide telemedicine services via a HIPAA compliant platform, but on a temporary basis is affording providers the same flexibility offered by OCR during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Can recipients get extra medicine or supplies?**

Effective 03/16/2020 South Dakota Medicaid will implement the following changes to the outpatient retail prescription benefit for all medications as allowed by federal or state law:

1. The early refill threshold will be reduced to 50%. This will allow a prescription to be refilled after 50% usage. For example, a 30 day supply can be refilled 15 days (50% of 30) after the previous fill date.
2. Prescriptions may be filled for up to a 60 day supply.

These changes are temporary and are subject to change or termination at any time. All applicable federal and state laws for prescribing and dispensing still apply.

Providers may dispense a 60-day supply of oxygen supplies (CPT codes E0424, E0431, E0433, E0434, E0439, E0441, E0442, E0443, E0444, E1390, E1391, E1392, E1405, E1406, K0738) and diabetic supplies for recipients at high risk of COVID-19 or under quarantine or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19.

Providers may submit claims for a 60-day supply of oxygen supplies through the portal or via paper.

- Paper claims for dispensing 60-day supply for oxygen supplies may be submitted with future service dates.
- Claims submitted on the portal will need to wait to be submitted until after the last day of the span date.

Existing outpatient prescriptions that require prior authorizations and will expire before May 31, 2020 will be extended by 90 days. This does not apply to new prior authorization requests or limited timeframe prior authorizations (ex. Hepatitis C treatments).

We are actively evaluating current dispensing limits for other services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the intent to provide additional flexibility where possible.

**Do out of state providers need to be licensed in South Dakota to provide services during the public health emergency?**

Providers wanting to provide services in South Dakota during the COVID-19 response do not need to be licensed in the state. Governor Noem's [Executive Order 2020-07](#) grants full recognition to the licenses held by a professional by any compact member state, in accordance with the Uniform Emergency Management Assistance Compact (ECAC) should those facilities require additional professionals to meet patient demand during COVID-19 emergency, whether in-person or by remote means. This order has been in place since March 23, 2020.