

Telehealth Services

The 14-day comment period for the Telehealth Services medical policy ended August 22, 2016. HHSC received comments from one stakeholder. A summary of comments relating to the proposed policy and HHSC responses follows.

Patient Site

Paragraph 6

Comment: A commenter supports telehealth services available in a member's home or other community based organization/faith based organization as long as the member can retain appropriate privacy.

Response: HHSC requires that a telehealth patient site be an established health site, as outlined in 1 Texas Administrative Code §354.1430(2). A client's private home is not considered an established health site. HHSC recently evaluated amending this administrative rule, and determined that no rule change will be made at this time. For telehealth services, there is no patient site facility fee available for reimbursement.

Distant Site

Paragraph 7 - 9

Comment: A commenter stated the Telemedicine policy indicates the following "Distant site providers must be licensed in Texas. " The Telehealth policy does not contain this information. Are there specific distant site requirements and should the Telehealth distant site section contain the same language as Telemedicine 6.1 pertaining to provider licenses?

Response: Paragraph 5 requires that telehealth services be provided in compliance with any standards established by the licensing or certifying boards of the professional providing the service. HHSC intends for this statement to also require that providers offering telehealth services do so within the scope of required licenses or certifications.