

SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REVIEW

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 205
(November 2020)

Introduced by: Virginia, American Association of Clinical Urologists, West Virginia,
North Carolina, New Jersey, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana,
American Urological Association, Maryland

Subject: Telehealth Post SARS-COV-2

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
2 signed into law March 6, 2020 waives certain Medicare telehealth payment requirements during
3 the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and allows beneficiaries in all areas of the country to
4 receive telehealth services, including at home¹; and

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6 Whereas, Telehealth has allowed for the continuation of necessary healthcare in a secure and
7 safe manner during this pandemic; and

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9 Whereas, Patients, depending on their location, age, and/or socioeconomic status, may face
10 barriers to accessing telehealth services due to inadequate access to technology, unreliable
11 broadband coverage, and/or lack of familiarity with technology²; and

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13 Whereas, Our AMA has enacted policies, such as Policy D-480.965 which support increased
14 coverage and reimbursement for telehealth services; and

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16 Whereas, Prior to COVID-19, the varied, confusing, and cumbersome rules/regulations made
17 telehealth difficult for the practicing physician to incorporate into their practice; and

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19 Whereas, Both patients and their physicians now have enthusiastically adopted telehealth
20 services and technology; therefore be it

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22 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to facilitate the widespread
23 adoption of telehealth services in the practice of medicine for physicians or physician-led teams
24 post SARS-COV-2 (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

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26 RESOLVED, That our AMA encourage the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, health
27 insurance industry, and Federal/State government agencies to adopt uniform, clear regulations
28 as well as equitable coverage and reimbursement mechanisms that promote physician-led
29 telehealth services (New HOD Policy); and be it further

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31 RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for equitable access to telehealth services especially for
32 the most at risk and under resourced patient populations and communities. (Directive to Take
33 Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between \$1,000 - \$5,000

Received: 06/08/20

References:

¹ Robeznieks, A. (March 2020). Key Changes Made to Telehealth Guidelines to Boost COVID-19 Care. American Medical Association. Retrieved from <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/key-changes-made-telehealth-guidelines-boost-covid-19-care>

² Velasquez, D., & Mehrota, A. (May 2020). Ensuring the Growth of Telehealth During COVID-19 Does Not Exacerbate Disparities in Care. HealthAffairs. Retrieved from <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200505.591306/full/>.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Reimbursement for Telehealth D-480.965

Our AMA will work with third-party payers, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Congress and interested state medical associations to provide coverage and reimbursement for telehealth to ensure increased access and use of these services by patients and physicians.

Citation: Res. 122, A-19

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