Resolution: 220
(I-22)

Introduced by: Mississippi

Subject: Extend Telemedicine to Out of State Enrolled College Students to Avoid Emergency Room and Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitalizations when in Crisis

Referred to: Reference Committee B

Whereas, Telemedicine has and continues to be a very helpful tool in the ongoing management of a patient’s healthcare; and

Whereas, The prevalence of mental illness is increasing worldwide; and

Whereas, In America, one out of five people have some type of mental health condition, and this number seems to be on the rise; and

Whereas, Among college students specifically, between 25 and 50% of students “meet the criteria” for at least one mental disorder in a given year; and

Whereas, College student populations are prone to stress, anxiety, and depression. The strain of living away from home for the first time, forming new relationships with peers and teachers, and academic concerns can feel overwhelming; and

Whereas, Additionally, the mental health crisis at colleges and universities has gone from bad to worse due to COVID-19; and

Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 1 in 4 people ages 18 to 24 “seriously considered suicide” in the last 30 days; and

Whereas, While college students are at a lower risk of experiencing serious symptoms caused by COVID-19, they are at disproportionately high risk for suicide; and

Whereas, During the COVID-19 pandemic, the utilization of telemedicine particularly in the space of mental health has benefited many patients who have been able to seek ongoing treatment; and

Whereas, College students from out of state who are enrolled in universities and colleges in Mississippi often establish a patient physician relationship while pursuing academic studies; and

Whereas, When those college students return home during recess from university studies, it is very difficult when in crisis to seek and establish treatment with a psychiatrist in their local community; and

Whereas, The utilization of telemedicine for those needed treatment encounters would strengthen the continuity of care for those out of state college student patients and reduce emergency room visits and inpatient psychiatric hospitalization for care; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work with state medical associations, the
American Psychiatric Association, the American Osteopathic Association, and the Federation of
State Medical Boards to advocate to Congress that legislation be introduced and passed to
extend telemedicine coverage for out of state enrolled college and graduate-level students with
an established physician-patient relationship to avoid emergency room and inpatient psychiatric
hospitalizations. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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i https://www.healthrecoverysolutions.com/blog/stress-control-for-college-students-with-telemedicine
iii https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/coronavirus-survey/