



## **Updated COVID-19 EPH Telehealth Services for Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy**

**In this document, "TELEHEALTH" services are defined as:**

Health-care services, other than telemedicine medical services, delivered by a health professional licensed, certified or otherwise entitled to practice in Texas and acting within the scope of the health professional's license, certification or entitlement to a patient at a different physical location other than the health professional using telecommunications or information technology.

### **Service Delivery Model for Telehealth for El Paso Health Providers:**

Telehealth may be delivered in the following format:

- Clinician interactive model is a synchronous, real time interaction between the provider and member via a live transmission.

Note: CANNOT be provided by telephone or live chat.

All confidentiality and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards apply to Telehealth transmissions. However, a HIPAA Temporary Waiver from the Office of Civil Rights has been issued, temporarily waiving HIPAA compliant software/product(s).

### **El Paso Health Requirements for the Use of Telehealth by OT, PT, and ST**

1. Telehealth is a covered benefit for ST and OT providers. However, El Paso Health has temporarily approved PT services in response to the national emergency for COVID-19 via Telehealth from March 20, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

Note: Decisions to extend this period will be based on further review and information received from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Health and Human Service Commission (HHSC).

2. El Paso Health providers should obtain consent from the client/parent for Telehealth services. The consent can be obtained via fax, email, or verbal with documentation. A verbal consent will be allowed temporarily due to COVID-19. Provider should request written consent, as is required, for their medical record after the COVID-19 situation has resolved.

3. El Paso Health Plan will temporarily honor existing authorizations for OT/PT/ST services with a prior authorization on file. Providers do not need to request amendments (changes) to existing authorizations to be able to provide Telehealth services.
4. El Paso Health will approve extensions for existing authorizations for services when the Provider states that the Member was unable to access services while the COVID-19 State of Disaster is in place. Authorization extensions will be given for a period up to 30 days. When necessary, you may submit an amendment request to El Paso Health's UM department via fax at (915) 298-7866 or the provider portal.
5. El Paso Health will reimburse Telehealth services according to the Texas Medicaid fee schedule for the approved procedure codes.
6. El Paso Health providers must submit claim forms using standard billing procedures for Telehealth services using the modifier 95 in Box 24D, in addition to any other required modifiers; and 02 in Box 24B for "place of service (POS)".
7. CHIP co-payments will not be required for any covered service delivered via Telemedicine or Telehealth.
8. Evaluations, Re-evaluations, and Physician Referrals: Providers should continue to do evaluations, re-evaluations, and obtain referrals from ordering providers as recommended by the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, March 2020.

**Additional requirements:**

A provider shall comply with the Texas Administrative Commission's Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice requirements when providing Telehealth services (TAC111.212).

- A. The scope, nature, and quality of services provided via Telehealth are the same as that provided during in-person sessions by the provider.
- B. A provider shall consider relevant factors including the client's behavioral, physical, and cognitive abilities in determining the appropriateness of providing services via Telehealth.

- C. A provider shall contemplate time considerations and a decrease in units per session if deemed appropriate for providing services via Telehealth.
- D. As pertaining to liability and malpractice issues, a provider shall be held to the same standards of practice as if the Telehealth services were provided face-to-face.
- E. Telehealth providers shall comply with all laws, rules, and regulations governing the maintenance of client records, including the specific Telehealth program that was utilized and the materials utilized in the Telehealth session.

