

## Changes to Medicare Telehealth Services from CSWA for 2023

The Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA) sent out this announcement about changes that are coming to Medicare Telehealth Services. Some of them involve requiring in-person meetings, others are telehealth specific (audio only) CPT codes. The end date for the Public Health Emergency (PHE) is going to be important because some of these changes take effect 151 days after the end of the PHE and others **either** 151 days after the PHE ends **or** through 2023. We will be monitoring the state of the PHE and will advise when it is going to end. As of now it looks like it will go on until at least February 16, 2023 because it was promised that the announcement of the end would be made 60 days before the end of the PHE and no announcement was forthcoming in November. As a reminder, the PHE can only be renewed for 90 days at a time so there is no ability to plan long-term for this event.

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### LIST OF CHANGES TO MEDICARE TELEHEALTH SERVICES:

January 1, 2023 (updated November 1, 2022)

Here is some new information on Medical Telemental Health Coverage in 2023.

#### ***Postponing the Effective Date of the Telemental Health In-Person Six-Month Rule***

In 2020, Congress imposed new conditions on telemental health coverage under Medicare, creating an in-person “exam” requirement alongside coverage of telemental health services when the patient is located at home. Under the rule, **Medicare** will cover a telehealth service delivered while the patient is located at home if the following conditions are met:

1. The practitioner conducts an in-person exam of the patient within the six months before the initial telehealth service starting 151 days after the end of the Public Health Emergency.
2. The telehealth service is furnished for purposes of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of a mental health disorder (other than for treatment of a diagnosed substance use disorder (SUD) or co-occurring mental health disorder); and
3. The practitioner conducts at least one in-person service every 12 months of each follow-up telehealth service starting 151 days after the Public Health Emergency.

While there is no requirement that this will apply to commercial insurance, they often follow the Medicare rules. At this time there are no insurers who have said they will require the above rules.

#### ***Behavioral Health***

A new proposal is being finalized to create a new HCPCS code (G0323) describing General Behavioral Health Integration performed by clinical psychologists (CP) or clinical social workers (CSW). This code is to account for monthly care integration where the mental health services provided by a CP or CSW are serving as the focal point of care integration.

### ***New Telemental Health Codes (Audio Only)***

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>

The following is a list of behavioral health ICD-10 codes that CMS will cover by **audio-only** through 2023 OR for 151 days after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). To read the CMS statement go to the link above. Videoconferencing will be covered during the Public Health Emergency for the same codes that are used for in-person and also have 151 days after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

There are two new codes – 0362T And 0373T – which are connected to integrated medical and behavioral health care.

#### *Code Short Descriptor of Telemental Health Codes for Audio-Only CPT Codes*

0362T	Bhv id suprt assmt ea 15 min	Available Through December 31, 2023
0373T	Adapt bhv tx ea 15 min	Available Through December 31, 2023
90785	Psytx complex interactive	Available Indefinitely
90791	Psych diagnostic evaluation	Available Indefinitely
90832	Psytx w pt 30 minutes	Available Indefinitely
90834	Psytx w pt 45 minutes	Available Indefinitely
90837	Psytx w pt 60 minutes	Available Indefinitely
90838	Psytx w pt w e/m 60 min	Available Indefinitely
90839	Psytx crisis initial 60 min	Available Indefinitely
90840	Psytx crisis ea addl 30 min	Available Indefinitely
90845	Psychoanalysis	Available Indefinitely
90846	Family psytx w/o pt 50 min	Available Indefinitely
90847	Family psytx w/pt 50 min	Available Indefinitely
90853	Group psychotherapy	Available Indefinitely