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**CHAPTER 5: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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**Telemedicine/Telehealth**

Telemedicine/telehealth is the use of a telecommunications system to render healthcare services when a physician or other licensed practitioner and a recipient/beneficiary are not in the same location. ~~medical information exchanges from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a recipient's health.~~ The telecommunications system shall include, ~~Electronic communication means the use of interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the recipient/beneficiary at the originating site, and the physician or other licensed practitioner at the distant site.~~ The telecommunications system must be secure, ensure patient confidentiality, and be compliant with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Originating site means the location of the Medicaid beneficiary at the time the services are provided.

Distant site means the site at which the physician or other licensed practitioner ~~delivering the service~~ is located at the time the services are ~~is~~ provided ~~via a telecommunications system.~~

~~Originating site means the location of the Medicaid recipient at the time the services being furnished via a telecommunications system are provided occurs.~~

When otherwise covered, services located in the Telemedicine appendix of the CPT manual, or its successor, may be ~~provided~~ reimbursed when provided by telemedicine/telehealth. In addition, other specified services may be reimbursed when provided by telemedicine/telehealth and these services are explicitly noted in this manual. Physicians and other licensed practitioners must continue to adhere to all existing clinical policy for all services rendered. Providing services through telemedicine/telehealth does not remove or add any medical necessity requirements.

**Reimbursement**

Louisiana Medicaid only reimburses the distant site provider for services provided via telemedicine/telehealth. Reimbursement for services provided by telemedicine/telehealth is at the same level as services provided in person.

The ~~recipient's/beneficiary's~~ clinical record must ~~at both the originating and distant sites~~ must ~~reflect~~ include documentation that the service was provided through the use of telemedicine/telehealth.

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**NOTE:** The distant site provider must be enrolled as a Louisiana Medicaid provider to receive reimbursement for covered services rendered to Louisiana Medicaid ~~recipients~~beneficiaries.

**Billing**

Medicaid covered services provided using telemedicine must be identified on claims submissions form by appending the modifier “95” to the applicable procedure code and indicate Place of Service (POS) 02. Both the correct POS and modifier must be present on the claim to receive reimbursement.