



## HEALTH SYSTEMS DIVISION

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**Date:** March 23, 2020

**To:** Indian Health Service (IHS)/Tribal 638 providers  
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)  
Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)

**From:** Donny Jardine, Transformational Programs manager  
Medicaid Programs, Health Systems Division

**Subject:** Expansion of fee-for-service telemedicine coverage, including telephone services during an epidemic of an infectious disease.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is revising Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) [410-146-0085](#) and [410-147-0120](#) to allow IHS/Tribal providers, FQHCs and RHCs to provide more telemedicine services. The revisions:

- Expand the definition of a face-to-face encounter to include synchronous two-way audiovisual links between a patient and a provider, and
- Allow telephone encounters for evaluation and management services, assessment and management services, and psychotherapy during an epidemic of an infectious disease.

Telemedicine encounters, outlined in the Health Evidence Review Commission's (HERC) [Ancillary Guideline A5](#) (Telehealth, Teleconsultations and Electronic/Telephonic Services) and provided in accordance with these rules and OAR [410-130-0610](#), are reimbursable. Encounters that are not excluded from the Prospective Payment System (PPS) or IHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be reimbursed at the clinic's PPS/IHS encounter rate and will be eligible for wrap-around payment.

As part of Oregon's response to the COVID-19 crisis, OHA is also investigating ways to allow behavioral health providers to provide services via telephone. Additional guidance will be forthcoming as we receive approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

### Why is this happening?

Oregon is aligning with continued guidance from CMS and Ancillary Guideline A5, to accommodate Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members' needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What should you do?

Continue serving patients as appropriate. For more information, please review this [fact sheet](#) regarding OHP coverage of telephone/telemedicine/telehealth services. Information on available codes and services can be found by [viewing the updated HERC guideline](#).

### Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, contact:

- For IHS/Tribal 638, Jason Stiener at [Jason.Stiener@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:Jason.Stiener@dhsosha.state.or.us) or 503-421-4079.
- For FQHC and RHC, Jennifer R. Smith at [Jennifer.R.Smith@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:Jennifer.R.Smith@dhsosha.state.or.us) or 503-509-5214.

Thank you for your continued support of the OHP and the services you provide to our members.