

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: The Coverage and Payment of Services Provided via Telemedicine

Document Number: PS-146-0

Attachment(s):

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

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POLICY STATEMENT

The SDSMA believes that health insurers shall not exclude health care service from coverage solely because the health care service is provided through telemedicine and is not provided through in-person consultation or contact, so long as such health care services are medically necessary, appropriate and as such can be provided through telemedicine without compromising the medical standards of care.

Our SDSMA further believes that telemedicine services should be covered and paid for by health insurers provided:

1. Physicians and other health practitioners who deliver medical services via telemedicine are licensed in the state of South Dakota.
2. Physicians and other health practitioners delivering telemedicine services abide by South Dakota licensure laws and the care provided is within the scope of the provider's medical training and licensure.
3. A valid patient-physician relationship is established – which may be done via an initial or subsequent telemedicine visit, a telemedicine visit performed at the request of a referring provider, or in certain emergency situations or other special circumstances.
4. Physicians and other health practitioners who deliver medical services via telemedicine make available information regarding their licensure and board certification qualifications to patients and in advance of the patient's first visit, if appropriate. Exceptions to the foregoing include on-call, cross coverage situations; emergency medical treatment; and other exceptions that become recognized as meeting or improving the standard of care.
5. The delivery of telemedicine services follows evidence-based practice guidelines, to the degree they are available, to ensure patient safety, quality of care and positive health outcomes.
6. The standards and scope of telemedicine services provided are consistent with related in-person services.
7. Telemedicine services are properly documented and include providing a visit summary to the patient or consult note to the originating site or referring provider.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Policy Council, 6/1/2018; reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 6/1/2018.