

Memorandum

To: Coordinated Care Organizations and Fee for Service Behavioral Health providers

From: Lori Coyner, Medicaid Director

Date: March 20, 2020

Subject: Expanded Telehealth for Behavioral Health

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is working to ensure members of the Oregon Health Plan have continued access to quality behavioral health services. Access to telehealth for behavioral health is necessary during this critical time and providers and plans should expand telehealth opportunities. With ongoing planning around COVID-19, this memo clarifies telehealth (including telephone) policies for behavioral health services and provides information on newly opened codes. As part of the COVID-19 crisis, OHA is submitting an 1135 waiver and State Plan Amendment (SPA) to expand telehealth services and will provide updates when available.

The fee-for service [behavioral health fee schedule](#) lists all codes that include telemedicine reimbursement when billed with modifier GT, including peer delivered services. The GT modifier can be found under the “allowed modifiers” row; under the mental health, substance abuse disorder, and peer delivered services tabs. The GT modifier is being added to the following codes: H0004, H0005, H0006, H0015, T1006, and 90849.

Telephone services (CPT codes 99441-99443, 98966-98968) are newly open for behavioral health providers during the COVID-19 crisis. These codes are newly eligible for payment (retroactive to January 1, 2020) when the service is:

- Provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional (98966-98968) or physician or other professional qualified to perform evaluation and management services (99441-99443) to a patient, parent, or guardian.
- Not related to an assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days.
- Not related to an assessment and management service or procedure scheduled to occur within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment.

Members can receive telehealth or telephone services in locations that are chosen by them, including their home. Telehealth services and codes referenced in this memo are retroactive to January 1, 2020.

If you have questions about OHA’s fee-for-service coverage of telephone/telemedicine services, contact Provider Services at 800-336-6016 or dmap.providerservices@dhsosha.state.or.us.