

# Practice Tips: What Physicians Need to Know

## TELEMEDICINE

For telemedicine resources such as Texas Medical Association policies and procedures, CME, a vendor evaluation tool, and the latest updates to telemedicine waivers, visit the association's webpage at [www.texmed.org/telemedicine](http://www.texmed.org/telemedicine).

### Waive length

Despite the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE) related to the COVID-19 pandemic, several Medicare flexibilities related to telehealth coverage and payment continue to help physicians adapt. As of this writing, these are the statuses of the post-PHE telehealth waivers.

The waivers and services listed below apply specifically to Medicare payment policy and Medicare Advantage plans. Other insurers, such as Medicaid and commercial health plans, may follow different payment guidelines.

Services/waivers	During the PHE	End date	After the PHE extension
<b>Current waivers</b>			
Prescribing controlled substances	Schedule II-V controlled substances may be prescribed through telemedicine and without a prior in-person visit.	Dec. 31, 2025	Drug Enforcement Administration will provide guidance via final regulations.
Service address	Enrolled practice location should be listed.	Dec. 31, 2025	Must add home address when that address is the distant site location for Medicare telehealth services.
Virtual direct supervision (includes teaching physicians)	Virtual presence was added to the definition of direct supervision.	Dec. 31, 2025	Supervision is allowed through audio and video interactive telecommunication.
Mental health in-person visit	Face-to-face appointments not required to establish care.	Sept. 30, 2025	In-person visits will be required within six months prior to an initial telehealth treatment and then every 12 months after.
Originating site	Patients in a rural area no longer must receive services at an originating site.	Sept. 30, 2025	Physicians can continue to see patients regardless of their location.
Payment parity	Medicare pays as if the patient were seen in the office.	Sept. 30, 2025	Payment will be reduced to the facility rate when provided in a place other than the patient's home (code POS 02). Payment will be paid at the nonfacility rate when the originating site is the patient's home (POS 10).
Provider types	Physical therapists, audiologists, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists are authorized to provide telehealth services.	Sept. 30, 2025	These provider types, except mental health services, will not be able to provide telehealth services.
<b>Expired waivers</b>			
E-visits	E-visits are allowed for both new and established patients.	Dec. 31, 2023	E-visits are allowed for established patients only.
Place of service (POS)	POS should be coded as if the service had been furnished in person, with modifier 95.	Dec. 31, 2023	POS should be coded with 02 (other than patient's home) or 10 (patient's home).
Virtual check-in	Virtual check-in is allowed for both new and established patients.	Dec. 31, 2023	Virtual check-in is allowed for established patients only.
Telehealth platform	Physicians can use any non-public-facing remote communication platform.	Aug. 9, 2023	Physicians must use HIPAA-compliant platforms.

Source: List of Telehealth Services, [cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov)