



OKLAHOMA OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION
ADVOCACY AND WELL BEING

June 15, 2020

Kevin S. Corbett
Chief Executive Officer and Director
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Mr. Corbett:

During this pandemic, the expansion of telehealth coverage by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been essential for physicians and other health care providers to continue care despite the ongoing health crisis. Maintaining the option to provide telehealth beyond COVID-19 quarantine would allow increased care to individuals who have limited access to care, disabilities, or are elderly.

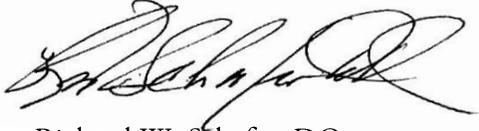
The landscape of health care has dramatically changed over the last three months and telehealth is now a vital part. We respectfully urge OHCA and other payers to permanently change the policies and regulations surrounding telehealth.

Specifically, we request the following:

- Patient Location: Telehealth services should be covered for patients in any geographic location and at any site, including the patient's home.
- Payment: Providers should receive the amount of Physician Fee Schedule payment as if the services had been provided in-person.
- Expansion of Telehealth Services: CMS should expand the list of covered telehealth services to include services that were added during the pandemic.
- Relationship with Patient: Allow telehealth services to be provided to new and established patients.
- Telephone evaluation and management (E/M) codes (99441-99443): Maintain the increased payment rates for these codes to equal established in-person codes (99212-99214) to ensure that patients without advanced video-sharing capabilities are able to access care.

On behalf of our physician members, thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. Please let us know if you would like to discuss this matter further. We appreciate your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Schafer, DO". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard W. Schafer, DO
President, Oklahoma Osteopathic Association