



Telehealth Care Payment

OVERVIEW

Telehealth care technology has the potential to transform how pediatricians and other physicians practice medicine in the rapidly changing health care environment. This technology promises to increase access to care and lower health care costs.

State legislators and regulators are actively engaged in developing telehealth care public policy in such areas as establishment of the physician-patient relationship, e-prescribing, and physician licensure.

Physician payment is an important telehealth care issue. Laws and policies regarding payment for telehealth care services by Medicaid and private insurance are decided by states. Currently, there is variability among these state laws and policies and many new measures on telehealth care payments have been under consideration in recent years.

AAP POSITION

- Physicians who deliver health care services through telehealth care should receive equitable payment to increase the availability of pediatric health care services for all children.
- Use of telehealth care services should be conducted within the context of the medical home, as such care offers continuity, efficiency, and the prudent use of health care resources. Fragmented care delivered outside the medical home must be avoided.
- Regulatory and licensing authorities should partner with medical organizations and other health care stakeholders to overcome administrative, financial, and legislative barriers to implement telemedicine and expand access to care.
- Revised policies on coding, billing, and payment are needed to ensure financial sustainability of health care delivered via telehealth care. Payer education and policy advocacy are needed to enact appropriate valuation of these services.

