

Telehealth State/ Federal Updates

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WashingtonState
Telehealth Collaborative

Federal Updates

- The American Medical Association and the American Telehealth Association have joined major health systems to pen a letter to congressional leaders calling for a 5-year extension to the Acute Hospital Care at Home Waiver, created by CMS.
 - The waiver allowed certain Medicare-certified hospitals to treat patients with inpatient-level care at home and waived specific hospital Conditions of Participation requiring 24-hour onsite nursing for patients
 - The CMS waiver is set to expire at the end of 2024
 - Letter is found [here](#).
- At April 10th's House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing, there were several legislative proposals discussed to support patient access to telehealth services, including [H.R. 7623 – The Telehealth Modernization Act](#) and the [drafted Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act](#)
 - The Telehealth Modernization Act would permanently remove geographic originating site restrictions, expand the types of providers eligible to provide telehealth services and extend coverage for audio-only telehealth
 - The Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act would extend the hospital-at-home waiver through 2027
 - Hearing is found [here](#).

Federal Updates

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) released the [draft 2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#) for public comment.
 - The purpose of the draft plan is to regulate, purchase, develop, and use health IT to help deliver care and improve patient health
 - Deadline for submitting comments is on May 28, 2024 at 11:59 PM
 - More details [here](#).
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved an Artificial Intelligence (AI) software as a medical device (SaMD), Sepsis ImmunoScore by Prenosis, for early sepsis detection. This is the first AI-driven diagnostic tool for sepsis to receive FDA approval.
 - Press release [here](#).
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2025 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters final rule establishes standards for travel distance to see different types of healthcare providers within state marketplaces for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.
 - This clarifies certification requirements for qualified health plans and mandates information submission regarding telehealth services by 2026
 - Final rule is found [here](#).

Federal Updates

- The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) released a [June 2023 report](#) to Congress, addressing Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System. Highlights of the report include:
 - Using telehealth for behavioral health services
 - In focus groups with beneficiaries and clinicians looking at their experiences with telehealth, they reported continued use of audio-only visits and that they would like to continue the option of telehealth visits after the public health emergency ends
 - More studies and claims data are needed to assess the impact of telehealth on quality, access, and costs to inform policy changes
 - More details on the report [here](#).
 - Executive summary is available [here](#).
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is currently recruiting practices for a no-cost, 18-month program beginning in June 2024 to promote appropriate antibiotic use while maintaining patient satisfaction and reducing potential side effects in patients seen via telemedicine.
 - Participants will be eligible for continuing education units (CEUs), continuing medical education (CME) credits, and the American Board of Internal Medicine maintenance of certification (MOC) points
 - More information can be found on their program website [here](#) – you can also sign up for an upcoming informational webinar