

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Atlanta Regional Office
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 4T20
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



DIVISION OF MEDICAID & CHILDREN'S HEALTH OPERATIONS

December 28, 2015

Dr. Linda Wiant, Chief
Medical Assistance Plans
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 40th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Title XIX State Plan Amendment (SPA), Transmittal # GA 15-0008

Dear Dr. Wiant:

We have reviewed the proposed Georgia State Plan Amendment 15-0008, which was submitted to the Atlanta Regional Office on December 1, 2015. The SPA proposes to add telehealth and telemedicine services to the state plan as a delivery system.

Based on the information provided, the Medicaid State Plan Amendment 15-0008 was approved on December 28, 2015. The effective date of this amendment is October 1, 2015. We are enclosing the approved HCFA-179 and the plan pages.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact Tandra Hodges at (404) 562-7409 or Tandra.Hodges@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Johnson for Jackie Glaze". The signature is written in a cursive style.


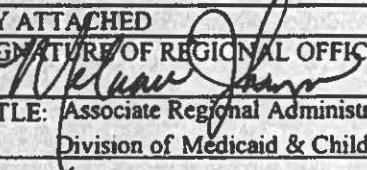
Jackie Glaze
Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

Enclosures

RECEIVED

JAN 06 2015

**Chief's Office
Medicaid Division**

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 15-008	2. STATE GEORGIA
		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)	
TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 October 2015	
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (Check One):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN AMENDMENT COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (Separate Transmittal for each amendment)			
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION: 42 C.F.R. § 410.78 et seq.		7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: FFY 2015 \$0 FFY 2016 \$0	
8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT: Attachment 3.1-G		9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable): Not Applicable	
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: Telehealth and Telemedicine Services			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One):			
<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: Single State Agency Comments Attached	
12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL: 		16. RETURN TO:	
13. TYPED NAME: LINDA WIANT		Department of Community Health Division of Medicaid 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 36 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3159	
14. TITLE: CHIEF, DIVISION OF MEDICAID			
15. DATE SUBMITTED: 11/12/15			
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
17. DATE RECEIVED: 12-01-15		18. DATE APPROVED: 12-28-15	
PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED			
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL: 10-01-15		20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL: 	
21. TYPED NAME: Jackie Glaze		22. TITLE: Associate Regional Administrator Division of Medicaid & Children Health Opns	
23. REMARKS:			

Telehealth and Telemedicine services.

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section the following definitions apply:

(1) Asynchronous store and forward technologies means the transmission of a patient's medical information from an originating site to the physician or practitioner at the distant site. The physician or practitioner at the distant site can review the medical case without the patient being present. An asynchronous telecommunications system in single media format does not include telephone calls, images transmitted via facsimile machines and text messages without visualization of the patient (electronic mail). Photographs visualized by a telecommunications system must be specific to the patient's medical condition and adequate for furnishing or confirming a diagnosis and or treatment plan.

(2) Distant site means the site at which the physician or practitioner delivering the service is located at the time the service is provided via a telecommunications system.

(3) Interactive telecommunications system means multimedia communications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and distant site physician or practitioner. Telephones, facsimile machines, and electronic mail systems do not meet the definition of an interactive telecommunications system.

(4) Originating site means the location of an eligible Medicaid beneficiary at the time the service being furnished via a telecommunications system occurs. Georgia Medicaid does not reimburse for asynchronous store and forward telecommunications technologies.

(b) General rules. Georgia Medicaid pays for covered telehealth services included on the telehealth list when furnished by an interactive telecommunications system if the following conditions are met:

(1) The physician or practitioner at the distant site must be licensed to furnish the service under State law. The physician or practitioner at the distant site who is licensed under State law to furnish a covered telehealth service described in this section may bill, and receive payment for, the service when it is delivered via a telecommunications system and identified in specific policy as a covered service or practitioner.

(2) The services are furnished to a beneficiary at an originating site, which is any Georgia Medicaid enrolled provider with the technological capacity to provide HIPAA compliant telemedicine services.

(3) Originating sites must not be an entity participating in a Federal telemedicine demonstration project that has been approved by, or receive funding from, the

Secretary as of December 31, 2000, regardless of its geographic location.

(4) The medical examination of the patient is under the control of the physician or practitioner at the distant site.

(5) A telepresenter is not required as a condition of payment unless a telepresenter is medically necessary as determined by the physician or practitioner at the distant site.

(6) Medicaid payment is not permitted for telehealth when asynchronous store and forward technologies, in single or multimedia formats, are used as a substitute for an interactive telecommunications system.

(c) Limitations.

(1) A clinical psychologist and a clinical social worker may bill and receive payment for individual psychotherapy via a telecommunications system, but may not seek payment for medical evaluation and management services per § 42 CFR 410.78.

(2) The physician visits required under § 42 CFR 483.40(c) may not be furnished as telehealth services.

(d) Process for adding or deleting services. Changes to the list of Medicaid telehealth services are made through the policy manuals available on the Georgia MMIS website.