

Telemedicine CMS and TJC Standards



CONFERENCE PANEL



Speaker



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Overview

- COVID-19 gave telemedicine a larger role in diagnosis
- Communicating remotely protects clinicians and patients from transmission of viruses including COVID-19
- Federal government, some states and health insurers quickly suspended regulations that limited telemedicine
- Is anticipated telemedicine boom will outlive the coronavirus.

The Joint Commission (TJC) Telemedicine Standards



TJC Telemedicine Standards

- Has telemedicine standards in two separate chapters – LD & MS
 - LD.04.03.09, EP23 (contract management)
 - MS.13.01.01 – licensed practitioners who are responsible for the care and treatment of patients via telemedicine link are subject to the credentialing and privileging process of the originating site
 - MS.13.01.03 – medical staff must recommend which clinical services may be delivered by licensed practitioner through telemedicine
- TJC made changes to align with the CMS CoP requirements

CMS Telemedicine Standards



CAH Telemedicine and EMTALA

- June 2013 memo
- Some CAH do not have a physician in the ED
 - May be staffed with NP or PA with emergency care training in states that allow this scope of practice
- CoPs: Must have physician (MD/DO) immediately available by phone or radio contact
- Requirement can be met using telemedicine
 - As well as by the MD/DO who practices on site in the CAH

Credentialing

- Two ways a hospital can use for credentialing and to grant physicians privileges
 - Proxy credentialing with a Medicare certified hospital
 - “Distant-site hospital”
 - Proxy credentialing with another telemedicine entity
 - “Distant-site telemedicine entity”



Definition of Telemedicine

- Telemedicine:
 - Provision of clinical services to patients
 - By practitioners from a distance
 - Via electronic communications
- Can be **simultaneously** – tele-ICU services
- Can be **non-simultaneously** – teleradiology

Additional Information

- CMS discussed in the comment section the written agreement/contract should also allow the CAH
 - Access to the complete credentialing and privileging file with exceptions
 - Include in the contract
 - Upon request for each practitioner who is covered by the agreement



CMS Telemedicine Standards

- Board decides what categories of practitioners are eligible candidates for appointment to the MS (45)
 - Such as physicians, podiatrist, dentist, CRNA, PA, NP, CNS, clinical social worker, clinical psychologist, dietician, etc.
 - Must be consistent with any state laws and within the person's state scope of practice
- Surveyor will ask to see a copy of the written telemedicine agreement
- Will look for documentation indicating that privileges have been granted to each telemedicine practitioner

Thank You

Register Now



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12