

Texas School-Based Medicaid Telehealth Services Overview

Overview

- In the 2017 legislative session, Texas tackled many important telehealth issues in order to expand services for Texas citizens. Most importantly, they agreed to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based telehealth services.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2017
- Pertinent Code Section: Subchapter B, Chapter 531, of the Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02171

Services

Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services conducted by a health professional is allowed at all public-school districts or open-enrollment charter schools that are Medicaid providers.

A “health professional” is an individual who is licensed, registered, certified, or otherwise authorized by the state to practice as a:

- Social worker
- Occupational therapist
- Speech-language pathologist
- Licensed marriage or family counselor, a licensed professional counselor
- Licensed specialist in school psychology

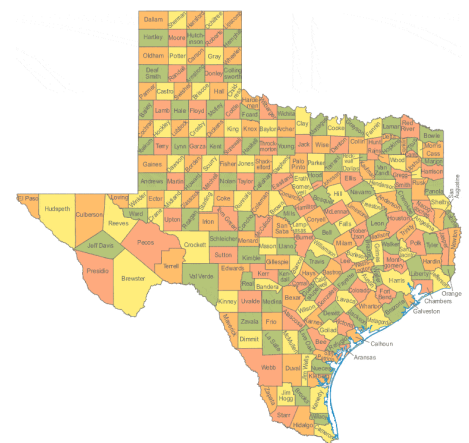
Requirements

The parent or legal guardian of the patient must provide consent before the service is provided.

Restrictions/"Regulation H"

Rule 111.212(h) of the Texas Administrative Code states that “[t]he initial contact between a licensed speech-language pathologist and client shall be at the same physical location to assess the client’s candidacy for telehealth, including behavioral, physical, and cognitive abilities to participate in services provided via telecommunications prior to the client receiving telehealth services.”

- This restriction ensures that an evaluation may not be conducted via telehealth
- It does not require that the initial clinician be the same as the telehealth clinician



Links

- [Senate Bill 922](#)
- [House Bill 2123](#)
- [SB 922 Language](#)
- [Texas Medicaid Procedures Manual including SHARS](#)
- [TEA SHARS](#)
- [Regulation H](#)

Each state has its own reimbursement guidelines and process. Accordingly, Presence Learning cannot guarantee that any particular expense will be reimbursed. Please check your state’s guidelines before seeking reimbursement.