



Telemedicine FAQs

Many practices will be implementing telemedicine as the spread of COV19 and the resulting quarantine will require the tool to continue access to care. MedChi is sharing these FAQs to provide you with the information you need.

Can I write an opioid script via telemedicine?

The current emergency order does not allow a physician to write an opioid script via telemedicine. The current law requires an in-person visit for an opioid script to be issued.

Does my malpractice policy cover me for using telemedicine?

Many policies provide coverage for using telemedicine under certain conditions. It is important to check with your insurance broker, and make sure you have declared it on your policy. Some carriers require a physician to have an established physician-patient relationship before the telemedicine encounter.

Must I be licensed in the state where the patient is located?

In most cases, you must be licensed in the state where the patient is located. Furthermore, you should make sure your insurer allows you to do telemedicine in that state. Governor Hogan has issued an executive order allowing non-Maryland physicians to perform telemedicine without a license due to the COV-19 crisis.

Do I have to comply with HIPPA when performing telemedicine?

Yes. You must protect a patient's privacy when performing telemedicine. Telemedicine requirements to comply with HIPPA have not been waived by any of the COVID government orders. Do not use an unsecure tool when performing Telemedicine.

How do I code and what will be covered by telemedicine?

The original COVID19 order expanded payment for all telemedicine services. We are expecting the State of Maryland and CMS to release coding guidelines shortly.