

SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF
RURAL HEALTH
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**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Temporary Telephonic and Telehealth Services Updates
 for Rural Health Clinic Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants**

Pursuant to DHHS COVID Bulletin released [March 25th, 2020](#) the codes below are payable to Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) starting on the Effective Dates below and will be paid on or after the Claim Submission Start Dates. **All expanded codes should be billed under the RHC Group Practice (GP) number for accurate payment consistent with all other “bill-above” codes.** The policy changes outlined below will remain in effect for the duration of the current declared public health emergency, unless SCDHHS determines they should sunset at an earlier date.

Telephonic Care

The following services must be rendered by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant and are allowable only when provided to an established patient. These codes should not be billed if the telephonic encounter originates from a related evaluation and management (E/M) service provided within the preceding seven (7) days nor if it leads to an E/M service or procedure within the subsequent twenty-four (24) hours.

Up to three (3) encounters will be allowed every 30 days, and services may be provided regardless of the Medicaid member’s location. **The codes should be billed under the GP number.**

Code	Description	Effective Date	Claims Submission Start date
G2010	Remote image submitted by patient	3/15/2020	5/1/2020
G2012	Brief check in by provider	3/15/2020	5/1/2020
99441	Telephonic E/M; 5-10 minutes of medical discussion	3/15/2020	5/1/2020
99442	Telephonic E/M; 11-20 minutes of medical discussion	3/15/2020	5/1/2020
99443	Telephonic E/M; 21-30 minutes of medical discussion	3/15/2020	5/1/2020

Reimbursement for the telehealth services addressed above is available if the interaction with a Healthy Connections Medicaid member includes at least one remote component. Interactions that include video interaction may also be billed, but other forms of electronic communication, such as email and instant and text messaging, are not eligible for reimbursement.

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Telehealth Evaluation and Management (E/M)

Services billed pursuant to this benefit expansion should be billed with a **GT modifier** and a **02 Place of Service (telehealth)** under the RHCs **GP Number**

Code	Description	Effective Date	Claims Submission Start date
99202-99204	New Patient E/M	3/23/2020	5/1/2020
99212-99214	Established Patient E/M	3/23/2020	5/1/2020

When rendered by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, E/M services in the range of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 99202- 99204 and 99212-99214 may be provided regardless of the Medicaid member’s location. All aspects of the SCDHHS telemedicine policy continue to apply, except for the following:

- Requirements related to the referring site are waived, and services may be provided without regard to the member’s location.
- Requirements that a certified or licensed professional be present at the referring site are waived.
- The audio and visual components of the interaction must include sufficient quality and/or resolution for the provider to effectively deliver the care being administered. Otherwise, any specific technology requirements are waived.

[Telephonic Care Bulletin issued March 19, 2020](#)

[Telehealth Bulletin issued March 23, 2020](#)