Telehealth under the Ryan White Program in Maryland

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MISSION
The mission of the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders and their families through provision of public health leadership and through community-based public health efforts in partnership with local health departments, providers, community based organizations, and public and private sector agencies, giving special attention to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

VISION
The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration envisions a future in which all Marylanders and their families enjoy optimal health and well-being.
Key Terms and Definitions

Introduction
What’s the difference between Telehealth and Telemedicine?

• Telehealth is a **broader scope of remote health care services** that includes non-clinical services

• Telemedicine refers specifically to **remote clinical services**
Types of Telehealth

- Live video: live, two-way connection between a patient and provider
- Store-and-forward: a provider sends recorded health history (such as scans or photos) to a specialist
- Remote patient monitoring (RPM): monitoring vital signs and transmitting information to a provider
- Mobile health: use of mobile communications devices in health practice and education
Providing Sites

• Distant site: a site at which the licensed distant site provider is located at the time the service is provided via technology-assisted communication.

• Originating site: location of an eligible Medicaid participant at the time the service being furnished via technology-assisted communication occurs.
Telehealth in Maryland
Background

• First telehealth laws passed in 2012
• Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC): allow physicians to practice in multiple states, connect with patients in underserved and rural areas
• Several bills have been passed to support insurance coverage of telemedicine services (Senate Bill 781, 789, 496, 198)
Provider Registration

• Providers need to register as telehealth providers, and enrol in the Maryland Medical Assistance program (MMAP)
• Credentialing: verify provider education, insurance, standard of practice
• Hospitals can contract providers from other states
• Exception: VA health care providers can provide telehealth services within their scope to VA beneficiaries, irrespective of State or location.
Licensing Process

• Licensing: securing authority to practice medicine within a state

• For telehealth, licensing process can be expedited by leveraging existing provider information

• Providers then choose number of states they desire to practice in (no additional fee charged)
Medicaid Coverage

• People receive Medicaid first before assistance from RW Program
• Medicaid covers inpatient and specialty medical care coverage
• “Hub and spoke” model
Eligible Sites

• University health office
• Local health dept
• Hospital
• Nursing facility
• Private practice office
• Outpatient mental health center
• Residential service site
• Community based substance use provider
Eligible Providers

• Nurse practitioner
• Nurse midwife
• Physician
• Physician assistant
• Community based substance use disorder provider
• Opioid treatment program facilitator
• Outpatient mental health centers
• Federally qualified health centers
Case Studies
Success stories from other states

• VA Affairs (rural Illinois and Iowa)
• LaPHIE (Louisiana): public health info exchange network
• TelePrEP (Iowa): deliver PrEP medication to growing rural population at high risk for HIV
• Illinois prison telehealth program: first time incarcerated patients
Patient Outcome

• Indicators
  • Reduce total medical expenditure
  • Improved retention rate in care
  • Improvements in viral suppression rate
  • Increase patient satisfaction
Federally Qualified Vendors

• Qualifications
  • Secure
  • Mobile access
  • Customer support

• Potential vendors
  • AmericaWell
  • MDLive
  • Tytocare (under Epic Systems, work with Johns Hopkins Hospital)
  • eVisits
Addressing Infrastructural Barriers

• Connectivity considerations
  • Internet speed
  • Funding for improving service in rural area
  • Focus on services independent of internet

• Access to providing sites
  • 71% of patients live >60 minutes away from HIV clinics, 27.4% could save travel time by utilizing telehealth
Next Steps
• Contacting UMD STAR TRACK pediatric HIV clinic, Chase Brexton on launching pilot partnerships, and expand to various county health departments in the near future

• Accelerate telehealth for HIV care in light of COVID-19 pandemic
References


• Telepresenters. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.ortelehealth.org/content/telepresenters.


• MD Medicaid Telehealth Program. Telehealth Provider Manual


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https://phpa.health.Maryland.gov