
DIGEST

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HB 530 Original

2020 Regular Session

Echols

Abstract: Requires health insurance coverage for services provided through telehealth or telemedicine.

Proposed law defines "health coverage plan", "healthcare professional", "medication adherence management services", "platform", "qualifying patient", "qualified telemedicine equipment and network", "remote patient monitoring services", "store-and-forward telemedicine services", "telehealth", and "telemedicine".

Proposed law requires any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state to provide coverage for a covered healthcare service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted healthcare professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical service or a telehealth healthcare service on the same basis and to the same extent that the plan provides coverage for the service or procedure in an in-person setting subject to the limitations established by proposed law.

Proposed law provides an exception for a telemedicine medical service or a telehealth healthcare service provided by only synchronous or asynchronous audio interaction, including but not limited to an audio-only telephone consultation, a text-only email message, or a facsimile transmission.

Proposed law requires an issuer of a health coverage plan to adopt and display in a conspicuous manner on the health coverage plan issuer's internet website the issuer's policies and payment practices for telemedicine medical services and telehealth healthcare services.

Proposed law requires any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state to provide coverage and reimbursement for the asynchronous telemedicine services of store-and-forward telemedicine services to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were provided through in-person consultation, subject to the limitations established by proposed law.

Proposed law provides that any patient receiving medical care by store-and-forward telemedicine services may request interactive communication with the distant specialist healthcare professional and prohibits any telemedicine network unable to offer the interactive consultation from being reimbursed for store-and-forward telemedicine services.

Proposed law requires any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state to provide coverage and reimbursement for remote patient monitoring services using qualified telemedicine equipment and network for a qualifying patient, subject to the limitations established by proposed law.

Proposed law requires remote patient monitoring services through telehealth to consist of an assessment, problem identification, and evaluation and the implementation of a management plan.

Proposed law requires the entity that will provide the remote monitoring services to be a Louisiana-based entity and have certain enumerated protocols in place.

Proposed law requires a remote patient monitoring prior authorization request form to be submitted to the health coverage plan to request coverage for remote patient monitoring services.

Proposed law requires remote patient monitoring services to be reimbursed at a daily monitoring rate of a minimum of \$10 per day each month and \$16 per day when medication adherence management services are included, not to exceed 31 days per month, and a one-time telehealth installation and training fee for remote patient monitoring services at a minimum rate of \$50 per patient, with a maximum of two installation and training fees per calendar year.

Proposed law limits eligibility for the reimbursement rates to only La.-based telehealth or telemedicine programs affiliated with a La. healthcare facility.

Proposed law does not apply to any plan providing coverage for excepted benefits, limited benefit health insurance plans, and short-term policies that have a term of less than 12 months.

Present law prohibits a reimbursement under a health coverage plan from being denied to a healthcare provider conducting or participating in the transmission at the originating healthcare facility or terminus who is physically present with the patient and is contemporaneously communicating and interacting with a healthcare professional at the receiving terminus of the transmission. Further requires the reimbursement to the healthcare professional at the originating facility or terminus to be not less than 75% of the reasonable and customary amount of reimbursement which that healthcare professional receives for an intermediate office visit.

Proposed law retains present law but relocates the provisions to a new citation.

(Adds R.S. 22:1841-1847; Repeals R.S. 22:1821(F))