

# Telehealth

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0008.7700

Recent review date: 01/2024

Next review date: 12/2025

*AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

## Policy Overview

This AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio policy outlines reimbursement criteria for telehealth services reported on professional claim form CMS-1500.

## Exceptions

Facility claims reported on claim form CMS-1450 (formerly UB-04) and claims for telehealth services defined by OAC rule 5122-29-31 by behavioral health providers who are Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services certified under OAC rule 5160-27-01 are excluded from this policy.

## Reimbursement Guidelines

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio recognizes the role of new and emerging technologies in the evolving healthcare landscape. Practitioner services historically defined by the in-person, physical meeting of patient and provider at the provider's office or other location are now routinely rendered using an array of HIPAA-compliant interactive telecommunication technologies commonly known as "telehealth," "virtual care," "e-visits," or

“telemedicine.” Telehealth services are classified according to how the patient’s information is transmitted to the provider.

- **Synchronous** telehealth services involve live interaction between patient and provider and are either via audio alone or simultaneous audio and video.
- **Asynchronous store and forward** telehealth occurs when the patient’s medical information is electronically transmitted to the provider.

Consistent with the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio deems certain provider services suitable for delivery via telehealth and considers telehealth services eligible for reimbursement when submitted on a clean claim with procedure codes, diagnosis codes, and modifiers compatible with the telehealth concept.

**Procedure(s):** Please refer to the ODM telehealth billing guidelines for the list of procedure codes that can be rendered as telehealth services. Per OAC rule 5160-1-18, a communication between practitioners regarding a patient, without the patient present in the communication, is not considered telehealth unless the same communication is considered a billable health service in a non-telehealth setting.

**Modifier(s):** Modifier GT must be appended to the procedure code to indicate a telehealth service. When applicable, a patient location modifier must also be appended. Please refer to the ODM’s telehealth billing guidelines for the list of patient location modifiers.

**Telehealth place of service (POS) codes**

In most cases, the POS code reported on a claim for telehealth services must reflect the physical location of the treating practitioner:

POS	POS description and billing
02	(Telehealth Provided Other Than in Patient’s Home) will only be accepted on claims for telehealth services by Home Health Service providers.
09	(Prison/Correctional Facility) will not be accepted, as services to inmates in a penal facility or a public institution are not covered.
10	(Patient’s Home) will not be accepted for telehealth services

Refer to the POS code set maintained by CMS, and to ODM telehealth billing guidelines for further specifications.

**Telehealth modifiers**

Modifier	Modifier description
GT	Telehealth services rendered via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems.

**Definitions**

**Telehealth**

Telehealth is defined as the delivery and facilitation of health and health-related services including medical care, provider and patient education, health information services, and self-care via telecommunications and digital communication technologies. Live video conferencing, mobile health apps, store and forward electronic transmission, and remote patient monitoring (RPM) are examples of technologies used in telehealth.

## GT-Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems

Modifier GT is used to indicate telehealth services.

### Practitioner site

The practitioner site is the physical location of the treating practitioner at the time a health care service is provided via telehealth.

### Patient site

The patient site is the physical location of the patient at the time a health care service is provided via telehealth.

## Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10).
- III. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- IV. Ohio Administrative Code 5160-1-18 Telehealth: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-1-18>
- V. Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Telehealth Billing Guidelines: <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/resources-for-providers/billing/billing>
- VI. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) POS Code Set: [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/place-of-service/codes/Place\\_of\\_service\\_code\\_set](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/place-of-service/codes/Place_of_service_code_set)

## Attachments

N/A

## Associated Policies

N/A

## Policy History

11/2024	Updated telehealth place of service codes/modifier
04/2024	Revised preamble
01/2024	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
12/2023	Annual review – No major changes to policy content <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated to Biennial policy</li></ul>
08/2023	Policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio removed from Policy History section
01/2023	Template revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised preamble</li><li>• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table</li><li>• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li><li>• Added Associated Policies section</li></ul>

