

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2103-MC-FFS

DATE: February 20, 2020

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospital, Physician MD, Physician DO, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), Clinic, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), Psychologist, Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Social Worker, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Behavioral Health and Physician Assistant Providers, Area Education Agency (AEA), and Local Education Agency (LEA)

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Update to Originating and Distant Sites for Telehealth Services

EFFECTIVE: March 01, 2020

[Informational Letter 1978-MC-FFS](#) Billing Telehealth Services Update provided guidance on how to bill telehealth services to the IME. The IME has updated the Telehealth Services Originating Sites to include AEAs, LEAs, and the distant sites to include FQHCs.

Originating Sites

An originating site is the location of a Medicaid member at the time the service is provided via a telecommunications system. Originating sites can be the following:

- ◆ The offices of physicians (provider types 02, 03) and other practitioners (psychologists, social workers, behavioral health providers, habilitation services providers, and advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs)).
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- ◆ CMHCs
- ◆ FQHCs
- ◆ RHCs
- ◆ AEAs and LEAs

Originating sites are paid a facility fee for telehealth services. The facility fee is an amount paid to the originating site for hosting the patient during a telehealth visit. The originating site would charge the facility fee using Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Code Q3014 (telehealth originating site facility fee). FQHCs

and RHCs would not bill Q3014 as a separate service because reimbursement for the related costs would occur through the annual cost settlement process.

Distant Sites

A distant site is the location of a physician or practitioner at the time the service is furnished via a telecommunications system. Practitioners at the distant site who can furnish and receive payment for telehealth services include:

- ◆ Physicians
- ◆ NPs
- ◆ Physician Assistants (PAs)
- ◆ Nurse-midwives
- ◆ Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs)
- ◆ CRNAs
- ◆ Clinical psychologists
- ◆ Clinical social workers (CSWs)
- ◆ Behavioral Health Service providers (licensed independent social workers (LISW), licensed master social workers (LMSW), licensed marital and family therapists (LMFT), licensed mental health counselors (LMHC), or certified alcohol and drug counselors (CADC))
- ◆ FQHCs

Distant site practitioners submit claims for telehealth services using the appropriate Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or HCPCS code.

Place of Service (POS) Code

The originating site would bill with the POS code that applies to the type of facility where the patient is located and the distant site would bill with POS 02 (telehealth).

Example: Medicaid member “C” is at a community mental health center (originating site) receiving telehealth services from a physician at their office (distant site). The CMHC would bill the facility fee using HCPCS code Q3014 with POS code 53 (CMHC). The physician would bill the applicable HCPCS/CPT codes with POS code 02 (telehealth).

Modifier 95

Iowa Medicaid will recognize Modifier 95 – Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered via Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications System, as informational only.

If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us