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## MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE MA20-14

**To:** Occupational, Physical and Speech-Language Therapy Providers

**From:** Matt Wimmer, Administrator 

**Subject:** COVID-19 Guidance for Therapy Services: Occupational, Physical and Speech-Language

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare continues to monitor and prepare for impacts resulting from the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). During this time it is vitally important that Medicaid participants receive services and get their needs met.

To reduce barriers to medical services for Medicaid participants and administrative burden for providers during this public health emergency, Idaho Medicaid is temporarily implementing the following changes to telehealth for therapy service providers:

- Orders and plans of care do not have to specify that services are provided through telehealth.
- Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistants may provide services via telehealth in accordance with the supervision and service requirements of their licensure board.
- Participants may receive telehealth service in any place of service.

Requirements for billing telehealth services:

- Include the GT modifier.
- Indicate the place of service (POS) according to the participant's location.
- Follow all standard coding requirements.
- Ensure services meet medical necessity criteria.
- Ensure services continue to be provided safely and effectively.

Providers should be aware of other telehealth information releases such as [Medicaid Information Release MA20-07](#) for Telehealth and COVID-19 and [Medicaid Information Release MA20-13](#) for COVID-19 Telehealth HIPAA Guidance for additional modifications to telehealth during this public health emergency. Services that can be provided effectively telephonically without real-time video may also be covered via telehealth. Services that cannot be effectively completed without visual interaction are not included in this modification and continue to require a video component ([Medicaid Information Release MA20-07](#)). Idaho

Medicaid will not sanction providers for using telehealth technology that would otherwise be noncompliant with the HIPAA rules around telehealth technology, including popular non-public facing applications ([Medicaid Information Release MA20-13](#)).

All other therapy and telehealth requirements remain per the [General Provider and Participant Information](#) handbook and the applicable provider type and specialty Idaho Medicaid Provider Handbook.

Evaluations must still be done in-person. Revaluations, such as annual evaluations, can be delayed with documentation in the participant's file.

These temporary changes take effect immediately and will continue through at least the end of the declared state of emergency. These changes may be rescinded or modified in the future to respond to changing pandemic conditions. To the extent practical, we strongly encourage the use of telehealth to provide services to Medicaid participants. Further guidance will be forthcoming as the situation develops.

This guidance does not apply to services paid through managed care plans for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid administered by Blue Cross of Idaho or Molina Healthcare of Idaho. Because of the need to coordinate with Medicare policy changes, please contact the plan administrator directly with questions.

We thank you for your service to Idaho Medicaid participants and appreciate your work to address this public health threat.

MW/wgd