



March 17, 2020

URGENT TELEMEDICINE UPDATE

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced that additional emergency measures have been put into place to temporarily expand the use of telemedicine. These measures will include allowing providers to conduct telemedicine visits with patients who are located in their homes. The provider must use an interactive audio and video telecommunications system that permits real-time communication between the distant site (i.e., physician's office or other location) and the patient at home.

In addition, effective immediately, the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will exercise enforcement discretion and waive penalties for HIPAA violations against health care providers that serve patients in good faith through everyday communications technologies, such as FaceTime or Skype, during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. Although these less secure options are available, NYSPA suggests that psychiatrists consider using existing HIPAA-compliant secure software programs that are available in an effort to better protect patients' privacy.

The CMS Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

New York State Psychiatric Association | [Website](#)



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