



**New York State
Psychiatric Association**

THE E-BULLETIN

NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Bringing New York State Psychiatrists Together



August 2, 2021

FEDERAL TELEMEDICINE UPDATE

HHS has now extended the federal public health emergency (PHE) for an additional 90 days through October 20, 2021. As a result, all COVID-19 related telehealth waivers and relaxations continue to remain in force. At this time, it appears likely that the federal PHE will remain in effect at least for the duration of 2021, if not longer. HHS has indicated that it will provide at least 60 days' notice of any change.

On July 13, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed Medicare rule for calendar year 2022. This rule includes the following proposals relating to telehealth services covered by Medicare:

1. During the federal PHE, CMS added the home as a permissible originating site. At this time, CMS is proposing to continue to permit the provision of telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries in their homes, but would require one in-person, non-telehealth service to be provided within the six (6) months prior to the telehealth visit and at least once every six (6) months thereafter.
2. CMS is proposing to permanently permit audio-only communication for the diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of mental health disorders provided to established patients at home, if the patient is unable to use, does not wish to use, or does not have access to two-way, audio/video technology. CMS intends to establish a new modifier for audio-only services to indicate that the provider had the capacity to furnish a two-way audio/video telehealth service, but utilized audio-only technology instead as a result of patient choice or other technological limitations.

NYSPA plans to submit comments on the proposed rules to express our strong support for continued access to telemedicine for all patients and to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries continue to have widespread access to necessary mental health care and treatment regardless of location, E/M code or use of audio-only technology. Written comments are due to CMS by September 13, 2021 and a final rule is customarily issued in late Fall.

In a recent NYSPA E-Bulletin, we provided information about the end of the New York State disaster emergency and how that may impact the provision of telemedicine. To view our July 9, 2021 E-Bulletin, [click here](#).



New York State Psychiatric Association Veterans Mental Health - Primary Care Training Initiative

The New York State Psychiatric Association is proud to offer this important training opportunity to ensure that returning veterans receive necessary care & treatment in their community to lessen or heal the invisible wounds of war & to further reduce the stigma which often impedes the decision to seek mental health & substance use disorder care and treatment, particularly among members of the military.

To learn more about this important program, please [click here](#).

Contribute to NYSP-PAC!

The New York State Psychiatric PAC needs your continued support so we are prepared to confront both the expected and unexpected. We sincerely hope you will join us today by making a contribution using the blue button above or by [clicking here!](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

Click the blue-button above to view the current opportunities listed for our members in New York State. These include Job Postings, Moonlighting positions, and available office space.

Interested in advertising with us? Please contact centraloffice@nyspsych.org for more information.



September 7, 2021

VMH-PCTI: The Clinical Importance of Understanding Military Culture
To register, please [click here](#)

November 16, 2021

VMH-PCTI: Recognition, Management and Prevention of Veteran Suicide
To register, please [click here](#)

December 7, 2021

VMH-PCTI: Tackling Modern Day Women Veteran Issues
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