



AmeriHealth Caritas[™]
District of Columbia

To: **All AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers**

Date: **September 8, 2020**

Subject: **DHCF Amendment to Section 910 (Medicaid-Reimbursable Telemedicine Services) – Chapter 9 (Medicaid Program) of Title 29 (Public Welfare) of the DC Municipal Regulations**

Summary:

To allow the District to ensure the accessibility of services to Medicaid, the DHCF is finalizing telemedicine policy changes initially proposed to maintain accessibility of services for beneficiaries in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health emergency. These changes include the following:

- Allowing services to be provided through telemedicine in a beneficiary's home
- Establishing the requirements for technology to home-related telemedicine services
- Implementing changes necessary to ensure that this service modality is available to Medicaid managed care beneficiaries

General Guidance:

The rule finalizes three specific amendments: (1) the addition of a beneficiary's home as an originating site in Subsection 910.7; (2) the removal of the reference to the fee-for-service program in Subsection 910.1; and (3) a clarification in new Subsection 910.30 that when the originating site is the beneficiary's home the distant site provider is responsible for ensuring that the technology in use meets the minimum requirements set forth in Subsection 910.13. Most smartphones or tablets operating on the major cellular networks meet the video quality and latency requirements set forth in this section.

Subsection 910.5 (c) currently requires that a beneficiary provide written consent to receive telemedicine services in lieu of in-person healthcare services, consistent with all applicable District laws. During this Public Health Emergency, a detailed service note that describes the beneficiary's consent and the reasons why a separate written consent was not available at the time of the service is acceptable.

Section 910.8 has been clarified to indicate that distant site providers include any provider staff who are working remotely. In addition, this section has been clarified to indicate that the distant provider sites listed under Section 910.8 is non-exhaustive and that services provided via telemedicine by other Medicaid providers is reimbursable.