

TELEDERMATOLOGY TOOLKIT

TELEDERM & COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENT & CODING STATE LAWS VENDOR IMPLEMENTATION COMPLIANCE GET STARTED

Coding a telehealth visit

Tele dermatology services can be performed in one of two ways:

Store and forward (asynchronous) - Patient submits an image or pre-recorded video for the physician to review and provide advice, e.g., a patient sends a digital image of a lesion to the physician.

Live interactive (synchronous) - Real-time two-way interaction between the physician and patient e.g., patient initiates a video chat with the physician to discuss a rash.

Non-face-to-face (virtual) services are those services that would typically be rendered in-person directly to a patient (or via guardian), but instead are provided using on-line communication, real-time two-way audio/video platforms, email, EHR portals etc.

Dermatologists can also provide telehealth consultation services when advice is requested by another physician and delivered virtually without seeing the patient in question face-to-face. Consultation services provided between physicians are reported with inter-professional consultation codes 99446 - 99449 with place of service (POS) code **11 (office setting)**.

Medicare pays separately for brief communications or virtual check-in (short patient-initiated communications with a dermatologist or non physician clinician) reported with one of the following "G" codes:

- **G2010 (asynchronous)** - An established Medicare patient sends a digital image to his/her physician for evaluation.
- **G2012 (synchronous)** - A brief virtual check-in used for triage of a concern from an established patient. *A virtual check-in is a 5-10 minute live-video real-time two-way interaction between the patient and the dermatologist to determine if an in-person visit is necessary.*

The use of telehealth codes comes with new terminology and coding concepts. Certain telehealth services are reported with place of service **(POS) code 02** to indicate the encounter was performed via telehealth. These include CPT codes 99201 - 99215; 99421 - 99423; 99441 - 99443; G2010 - G2012. Interprofessional tele dermatology consultation codes are reported using **POS 11 (office setting)**.

A teledermatology synchronous service rendered via a real-time two-way interactive audio and video telecommunications system that lasts more than a virtual check-in (5-10 minutes) can be reported using the E/M service codes 99201 – 99215.

Claims reported with E/M codes 99201 - 99215 and submitted to Medicare must be appended with modifier GQ whereas private payer codes are appended with modifier 95 for synchronous encounters.

Modifier 95 (Private Payer): Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered Via a Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications System

Modifier GQ (Medicare): Services delivered via asynchronous telecommunications system.