

CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS IN CHILDREN RELIEF FUND COMMISSION
POLICY/ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Telemedicine and Telehealth
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 7, 2020
SUPERCEDES: Telephone Expenses
AUTHORITY: N.J.S.A. 26:2-154(b), 156 N.J.S.A. 45:1-61 et al. N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.14

I. POLICY STATEMENT:

N.J.S.A. 45:1-62(2)(a) states:

Unless specifically prohibited or limited by federal or State law, a health care provider who establishes a proper provider-patient relationship with a patient may remotely provide health care services to a patient through the use of telemedicine. A health care provider may also engage in telehealth as may be necessary to support and facilitate the provision of health care services to patients.

The State Office of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund may consider telemedicine and telehealth expenses provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-61 et al. when assessing eligibility for reimbursement from the Fund. Necessary, reasonable, and appropriate telemedicine and telehealth expenses that meet all other applicable Fund policies and guidelines (e.g., use of in-network providers for patients with comprehensive health insurance that do not cover out-of-network providers) may be reimbursed.

II. DEFINITIONS: (see N.J.S.A. 45:1-61)

Health care provider means an individual who provides a health care service to a patient, and includes, but is not limited to, a licensed physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, psychologist, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, clinical social worker, physician assistant, professional counselor, respiratory therapist, speech pathologist, audiologist, optometrist, or any other health care professional acting within the scope of a valid license or certification issued pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

Telehealth means the use of information and communications technologies, including telephones, remote patient monitoring devices, or other electronic means, to support clinical health care, provider consultation, patient and professional health-related education, public health, health administration, and other services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:1-61 et al.

Telemedicine means the delivery of a health care service using electronic communications, information technology, or other electronic or technological means to bridge the gap between a health care provider who is located at a distant site and a patient who is located at an originating site, either with or without the assistance of an intervening health care provider, and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:1-61 et al. **Telemedicine does not include** the use, in isolation, of audio-only telephone conversation, electronic mail, instant messaging, phone text, or facsimile transmission.

II. PROCEDURE:

- a. Telehealth and telemedicine expenses must be verified with original itemized invoices/receipts and verification of payments.
- b. Verification of payments may include canceled checks and/or credit card statements. Payments must have originated from a parent or guardian's personal funds.

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DATE: August 26, 2020