



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

MEMORANDUM

OCDD-P-20-012

TO: Residential Options Waiver Professional Providers

FROM: Charles Ayles, OCDD Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Provider Update

The below advisory is to inform all providers rendering professional services to Louisiana Medicaid members. This information will be updated as new information is available.

On March 11, 2020, Governor Edwards declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19. For current updates on the status of COVID-19 in Louisiana, please see the Office of Public Health (OPH) COVID-19 website, located at: <http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus>.

Telehealth Requirements for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy

Effective for dates of service on or after March 17, 2020, and for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, Louisiana Medicaid encourages and will reimburse the use of telehealth, when appropriate, for rendering physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to members. Telehealth can facilitate the continuation or establishment of these services while complying with the need for social distancing.

Telehealth services can be rendered for the care of new or established patients, or to support the caregivers of new or established patients. For services requiring prior authorization, a new prior authorization request does not need to meet any additional criteria to be eligible for telehealth delivery and an existing prior authorization does not need an addendum to be eligible for telehealth delivery.

Telehealth services must be rendered by licensed providers for their respective therapies, which include: physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists, subsequently referred to collectively as the “therapy provider.”

Prior to the session, the therapy provider should obtain permission from the member or caregiver to proceed with telehealth and this discussion should be documented in the

Novel Coronavirus Disease Provider Update

March 23, 2020

Page 2

clinical record. The therapy provider should also assist the member or caregiver in setting up any technology needed. The therapy provider is responsible for all aspects of the respective care provided to a patient, including determining and documenting the extent to which the use of technology is necessary and appropriate in the provision of the rendered therapy. A member's appropriateness for telehealth should be determined on a case-by-case basis, with selections based on the judgment of the therapy provider, the member's informed choice, and professional standards of care. The therapy provider should ensure that care is provided in a secure, confidential location

The therapy provider and member/caregiver must use an interactive audio/video telecommunications system.

Billing Instructions: Claims processing systems will be updated by March 24, 2020. Prior to that date, providers should continue to submit claims and they will be recycled with no action needed by the provider. A list of relevant procedure codes is included below. Provider must indicated place of service 02 and must append modifier- 95

Physical Therapy	Occupational Therapy	Speech/Language Therapy
97161	97165	92507
97162	97166	92508
97163	97167	92521
97164	97168	92522
97110	97530	92523
G0151	G0152	92524
		G0153