



Idaho Telehealth Council

Reimbursement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes:

Subject: Idaho Telehealth Council Reimbursement Subcommittee **DATE:** September 10, 2015

LOCATION: 615 N 7th Street, Boise, ID 83702

Attendees: Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chairman – Idaho Hospital Association
Ken Schaecher, MD, Co-Chair – Select Health
Tracey Sessions, Co-Chair – Idaho State Hospital South
David Morledge, PhD – Neurostatus, LLC
Matt Wimmer – IDHW Division of Medicaid

Teleconference: Marc Chasin, MD – St. Luke’s Health System
Melissa Christian – Regence BlueShield
Casey Meza – Kootenai Health
Debbie Ransom – IDHW Division of Licensing and Certification

Members Absent: Kathy McGill – Department of Insurance
Tiffany Whitmore Seibert – Saint Alphonsus Health System
Rick Goodwin, MS – Eastern Idaho RMC

DHW Staff: Cynthia York, Administrator – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives
Kate Creswell, Project Coordinator – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives

STATUS: Draft 10/01/15

Agenda Topics:

Welcome, Introduction, and Payer Recap – Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chair

- Council Chair Stacey Carson, Idaho Hospital Association, introduced herself and described the subcommittee’s charter – to examine reimbursement policies and determine payment policies to support the Triple Aim initiative.
- Co-Chair Ken Schaecher, MD, Select Health, introduced himself and Co-Chair Tracey Sessions, Idaho State Hospital South. Dr. Schaecher also shared his vision for the first subcommittee meeting, to identify the priority issues to be addressed during future subcommittee meetings.

Participant Introductions

- Participants provided brief introductions.

Payers Issues

- Co-Chair Dr. Schaecher asked participants to identify any issues important to the Payers.
 - Key issues identified were:
 1. Reasonable reimbursement of telehealth services.
 - a. Payment parity or non-parity.
 - b. Patient vs. payer responsibility.
 2. How to properly identify patients and verify benefit eligibility.
 3. What types of services qualify for telehealth reimbursement?
 - a. Is there a difference between facility-based services and non-facility based services?
 4. How to ensure appropriate use.
 - a. Specialty codes or modifiers to indicate face to face or telemedicine?
 5. Appropriate reimbursement parameters, such as location (rural vs urban) and which providers qualify.
 - a. Do employed providers have additional agency regulations?
- Subcommittee agreed that telehealth should be practical and available to areas in need, rather than excluding particular areas based on reimbursement parameters.
- Telehealth services can be provided by any appropriate provider, if within their scope of practice, as defined by their state regulatory board.
- Co-Chair Tracey Sessions provided subcommittee members with the 2015 Medicare Telehealth Services handout for their review.

Regulators Issues to Allow Payment

- Debbie Ransom, IDHW Division of Licensing and Certification, expressed concern regarding the licensing and certification of additional entities including ambulatory surgery centers, residential/assisted living facilities, certified family homes, end stage renal disease centers, home health agencies, hospice agencies, hospitals, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, nursing facilities, outpatient physical therapy, rural health clinics, and speech pathology.
- Ms. Ransom also offered to serve as an intermediary with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and assist the Council in obtaining clarity on regulations that may be interpreted differently.

Participant's Objectives for Reimbursement Subcommittee

- Participant's identified several objectives for the reimbursement subcommittee including how to create better access to telehealth services, to reach a consensus for what is fair and reasonable related to reimbursement of services, and to avoid problems with certification.
- Council Chair Stacey Carson emphasized the importance of the subcommittee's role to articulate and support recommendations that aligns with the Idaho Telehealth Council's goals.

Service Provider Questions or Issues

- Primary issues for providers of services included how to implement telehealth in an efficient and effective manner, disseminate telehealth reimbursement information to providers, and to include assurances for behavioral health.
- There are differences in reimbursement for services rendered within a facility which should be distinguished in data collections.
- For in-patient services there are questions on how delivered care using telemedicine may potentially collide with federal certification practices.
- Provider credentialing is important.

Next Steps

- Bi-monthly meetings will be held on Thursdays.
 - A poll will be administered to determine the best weeks and time of day for participants.
 - An electronic survey containing reimbursement questions will be administered to stakeholders.

There being no further business Co-Chair Dr. Schaecher adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.