

Therapy Telehealth Status for 1/1/2025

PRE-2020: PRE-PHE

The Social Security Act (Medicare LAW) dictates approved providers of Telehealth.

Approved providers include Physicians, PA, NP, CNS, Certified RN Anesthetist, Certified Nurse Midwife, CSW, Clinical Psychologist, RD or Nutrition Professional, Marriage/Family Therapist, Mental Health Counselor

Therapists (PT, OT and Speech) are not approved providers under the Law.

Telehealth primary purpose is to service Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas. Only specific CPT Codes can be billed under Telehealth.

2020: COVID-19 PHE

When a Public Health Emergency (PHE) was declared in 2020, Waivers were put in place to override portions of the Social Security Act / Medicare Law

These Waivers temporarily added therapists to the “approved provider list” in all settings by amending the Social Security Act.

These Waivers were renewed each time the PHE was renewed, from 2020 through 2023.

When therapists were added to the “provider list,” CMS temporarily approved CPT Codes that therapists frequently used to the “list of approved Telehealth Codes.”

2023: PHE ENDED

Telehealth temporary rules were set to end when the PHE ended in May 2023.

This included the temporary rule that allowed therapists to provide Telehealth in all settings.

Our professional associations fought to extend the ability to provide Telehealth. Initially, Congress extended Telehealth to 151 days beyond the PHE, then further extended the PHE rules through 12/31/24.

This is the temporary rule extension that allows therapists to provide Telehealth today.

2023 THROUGH 2024

The EXTENSION FOR THERAPISTS TO PROVIDE TELEHEALTH EXPIRES 12/31/24.

On 1/1/25, Telehealth Rules will revert back to the original Social Security Act / LAW in place prior to the PHE. (See column 1)

Since therapists are NOT APPROVED PROVIDERS under Medicare LAW, the practice setting, location, or rural status of the therapist or facility DO NOT MATTER.

Providing Telehealth to Medicare beneficiaries and billing Medicare for these services ends IF YOU ARE A THERAPY PROFESSIONAL (PT, PTA, OT, OTA, SLP).

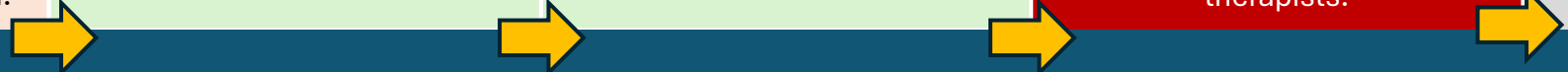
CMS is keeping the “therapy CPT codes” on the “telehealth list” beyond 2024 because other approved providers can bill for them. This does not mean CMS is approving Telehealth for therapists.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES?

It is possible that Telehealth for Therapists is extended / approved for 2025. How?

- 1- Congress could pass another “temporary extension for therapists” that would extend the current rules to 12/31/26.
- 2- Congress could pass a Law (permanent amendment to the SS Act) to add therapists to the approved provider list permanently.

****There is legislation in place that would need to be passed and signed into Law by the end of 2024 for this to happen.***



*Information applies to traditional Medicare beneficiaries as of 12/1/2024.