



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

March 19, 2020

To: Executive Directors, Pre-paid Inpatient Health Plans  
Executive Directors, Community Mental Health Services Providers

From: Jeffery L. Wieferrich, MA, LLP, Director *JLW*  
Bureau of Community Based Services  
Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration

RE: Code Chart for COVID-19 Crisis

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently released Medicaid Bulletin MSA 20-09 which updated program coverage for telemedicine services including the definition, consent requirements, privacy and security requirements, allowable originating sites, distance site procedures and billing and reimbursement. After receiving additional guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), MDHHS has released further policy guidance (MSA 20-12) on allowable face-to-face encounters with beneficiaries during the COVID-19 crisis. This new guidance allows the use of nearly all communication methods for interacting with individuals as long as the individual (and guardian when applicable) is able to utilize the method and has consented to the use. This does allow the use of telephone contacts. The allowance for the use of additional communication methods must not replace clinical need and clinical judgement when determining how to provide supports and services. If a face-to-face interaction is needed, the provider should practice social distancing requirements and follow Center for Disease Control guidelines for such interactions. If needed, please contact your local health department for further guidance.

To assist with this most recent guidance for face-to-face encounters, the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) has established a COVID-19 Encounter Code Chart. This chart will be in effect for 30 days following the termination of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency Order (2020-04, COVID-19), or on the first of the following month, whichever is later. The chart clearly delineates which codes can be used with the methods described in the face-to-face guidance as well as those that do not apply. This chart is considered effective as of March 1, 2020 to support the many efforts that have already been undertaken in the field. The chart is color coded as follows:

- The white rows are not available for any type of telehealth practices.
- The green rows reflect currently allowable telehealth practices and can also now be provided through the means in the COVID-19 face-to-face guidance.

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- The yellow rows reflect currently unallowable telehealth practices that can now be provided through telehealth practices and through the means in COVID-19 face-to-face guidance.

The COVID-19 Encounter Code Chart is provided as part of this communication and will be posted in the reporting requirements section of the BHDDA website. The provider qualifications for each code have not changed and must continue to be followed. Additionally, it is the intent of BHDDA that services provided in these alternate manners be reimbursed as if they were face-to-face encounters.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the provider qualifications mailbox:  
[MDHHS-ProviderQualificationCode@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-ProviderQualificationCode@michigan.gov)

cc: Allen Jansen  
Robert Sheehan  
Leslie Asman  
Dr. Debra Pinals  
Raymie Postema  
Belinda Hawks  
Larry Scott  
Angela Smith-Butterwick  
Kim Batsche-McKenzie  
Kendra Binkley  
Kathy Haines  
Jackie Sproat  
Kasi Hunziger