

Popovits & Robinson

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CLIENT ADVISORY

February 2009

*Frankfort: 20635 Abbey Woods Court, Frankfort, IL 60423 (708) 479-3230
Bloomington: 1003 Martin Luther King Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701 (309) 827-6026*

Medical Payment Reimbursement

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services has proposed amendments to the Illinois Administrative Code to reimburse providers of mental health and medical services for telepsychiatry and telemedicine.

Telepsychiatry is the use of a telecommunication system to provide psychiatric services for the purpose of evaluation and treatment when the patient is at one medical provider and the rendering provider is at another location.

Telemedicine is the use of a telecommunication system to provide medical services for the purpose of evaluation and treatment when the patient is at one medical provider location and the rendering provider is at another location.

This proposed amendment requires that a physician or other licensed health care professional be present with the patient at all times. This proposed amendment also requires that the distant provider be a physician licensed by the State of Illinois or the state where the patient is located. Additionally, the proposed amendment requires, for the use of telepsychiatry, that if the patient is 15 years of age or younger the physician must have completed an accredited child and adolescent psychiatry residence program.

The services that will be provided must be rendered using an interactive telecommunication system. This system consists of multimedia communications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and the distant provider. Telephones, facsimile machines, and electronic mail systems do not meet the requirements for an interactive telecommunication system.

In addition, the proposed amendment clarifies that the patient's location will receive a facility fee and the distant provider will receive a fee as determined by the American Medical Association current procedural terminology code.

Furthermore, this proposed amendment requires that any medical records documenting the telehealth services provided must be maintained by the originating site and the distant site.

For more information please contact Popovits & Robinson at 708/479-3230.

This publication is for the general information of clients and friends of Popovits & Robinson. It does not provide legal advice for any specific matter. Popovits & Robinson excludes all liability with respect to any part of this document, including without limitation, any errors or omissions.