



**Department  
of Health**

**OFFICE OF HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS**

# **Telehealth in New York State**

# Telehealth

**Telehealth** is the use of electronic information and communication technologies to deliver health care to patients at a distance.

# Telehealth Reimbursement Law

- New York became the 22<sup>nd</sup> state to pass telehealth reimbursement parity legislation.
  - Chapter 550 of the Laws of 2014, as amended by Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2015, signed by Governor Cuomo in March 2015
  - Requires commercial insurers and the Medicaid program to provide reimbursement for services delivered via telehealth to the same extent that the services would be covered if provided in person
  - Effective January 1, 2016
  - Amends public health law, insurance law, and social services law

# Telehealth Reimbursement Law

- Adds a new PHL Article 29-G – “Telehealth Delivery of Services”
  - Provides clear definitions to serve as a foundation for telehealth practice
  - Definition of telehealth:
    - Is limited to telemedicine, store and forward, and remote patient monitoring
    - Excludes audio-only, fax, and email transmissions

# Telehealth Applications

- Live Videoconferencing
- Store and Forward
- Remote Patient Monitoring

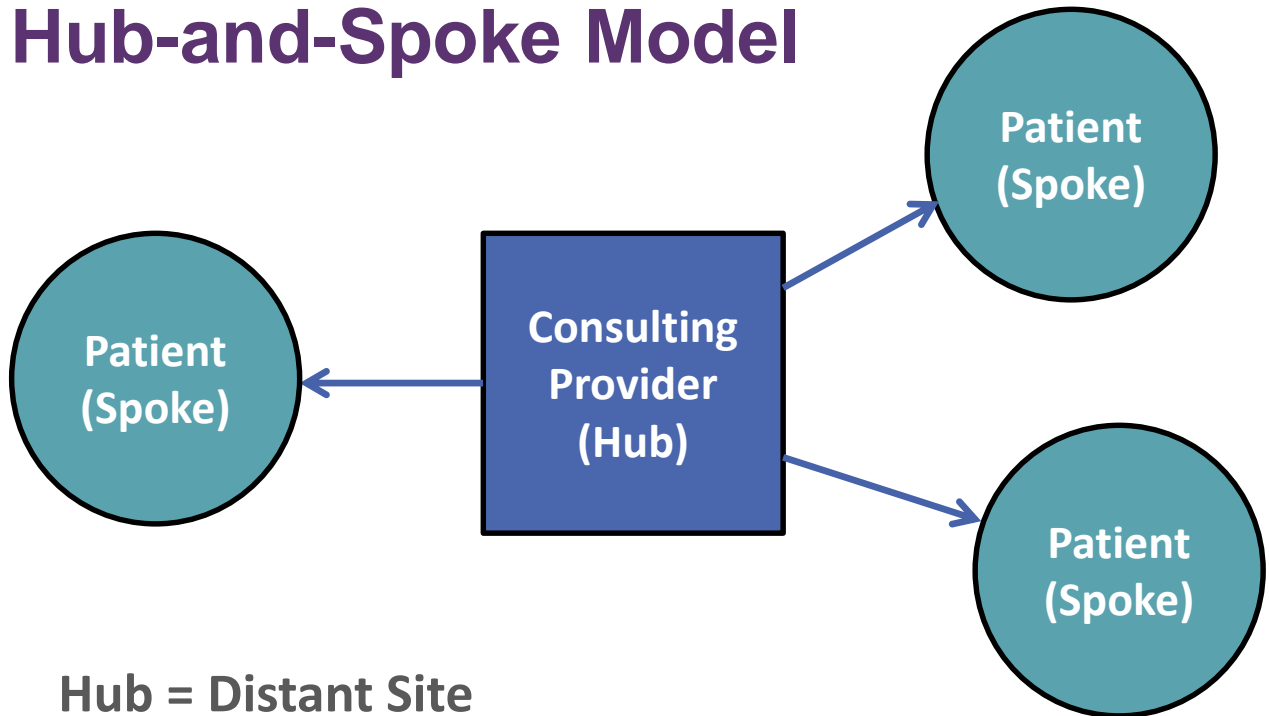
# Telehealth Applications

## Live Videoconferencing

- **Synchronous** – Real-time, interactive two-way communication
  - Commonly referred to as “telemedicine”
  - Uses a “hub-and-spoke” model
  - NYS Medicaid program area since September 2006



# Hub-and-Spoke Model



**Hub = Distant Site**

**Spoke = Originating Site**

# Telehealth Applications

## Store and Forward

- **Asynchronous –**  
Transmission of information occurs in one direction. Images and data are captured at point of care, stored, and later forwarded to another location
- Utilized in specialty areas such as radiology and dermatology





# Telehealth Applications

## Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)

- Monitoring devices are used by patients to easily capture and transmit data such as blood pressure and other vital signs



# Expansion of Telehealth Providers

- Definition of “telehealth provider” limited to:
  - Physician, PA, Dentist, NP, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Audiologist, Midwife, Certified Diabetes Educator, Certified Asthma Educator, Genetic Counselor, Hospital, Home Care, Hospice
  - RN, when receiving data by means of Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)
- Definition of “originating site” limited to:
  - Article 28 facilities, Article 40 facilities, mental hygiene facilities, private physicians’ offices
  - Patient’s place of residence only when using RPM

## Expansion of Telehealth Providers

- An Act to amend public health law, in relation to **including physical therapists and occupational therapists as telehealth providers** was passed and signed by the Governor on November 20, 2015.

# Implementation

- Regulations related to the telehealth reimbursement law are currently under development

## For Additional Information

- **Questions on Medicaid's telehealth coverage policy should be directed to the Division of Program Development and Management at (518) 473-2160**

# Thank You!

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