



# **NEBRASKA**

#### What is the definition of "telemedicine" or "telehealth"?

The Nebraska Telehealth Act provides that "[t]elehealth consultation means any contact between a patient and a health care practitioner relating to the health care diagnosis or treatment of such patient through telehealth. . . ."

#### NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-8503(4).

"Telemonitoring means the remote monitoring of a patient's vital signs, biometric data, or subjective data by a monitoring device which transmits such data electronically to a health care practitioner for analysis and storage."

#### NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-8503(5).

A Nebraska regulation pertaining to provision of behavioral health services defines "telehealth" as "the delivery of health-related services and information via telecommunication technologies."

206 Neb. Admin. Code § 2.

### **PSYCHIATRISTS**

Are there any licensing requirements specific to telemedicine/telehealth (e.g., requirements to be licensed in the state where the patient is located)?

#### None identified.

However, a licensure provision included as part of the Nebraska Medical Practice Act states that it is not an authorized practice of medicine for "physicians who are licensed in good standing to practice medicine under the laws of another state when incidentally called into" Nebraska "or contacted via electronic or other medium for consultation with a physician licensed in this state."

The provision further provides that "consultation means evaluating the medical data of the patient as provided by the treating physician and rendering a recommendation to such treating physician as to the method of treatment or analysis of the data. . . . "

NEB. REV. STAT. § 38-2025(6).





### **NEBRASKA**

### MINORS

What are the requirements/restrictions regarding the provision of telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services to minors?

In May 2015, the Nebraska Legislature extended the termination date for a children's behavioral health screening and referral program to September 6, 2017.

Neb. L.B. 240 (May 7, 2015) (amending NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-8512(6)).

### COVERAGE & REIMBURSEMENT

Does the state have a parity statute in place mandating coverage by private insurers for telemedicine/telehealth services (including telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services) on par with those provided in face-to-face/in-person encounters?

None identified.

However, a Nebraska statute pertaining to insurance coverage for telehealth and telemonitoring services provides as follows:

- (2) Any insurer offering (a) any individual or group sickness and accident insurance policy, certificate, or subscriber contract delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state, (b) any hospital, medical, or surgical expense-incurred policy, except for policies that provide coverage for a specified disease or other limited-benefit coverage, or (c) any self-funded employee benefit plan to the extent not preempted by federal law, shall provide upon request to a policyholder, certificate holder, or health care provider a description of the telehealth and telemonitoring services covered under the relevant policy, certificate, contract, or plan. (3) The description shall include:
- (a) A description of services included in telehealth and telemonitoring coverage, including, but not limited to, any coverage for transmission costs;
- (b) Exclusions or limitations for telehealth and telemonitoring coverage, including, but not limited to, any limitation on coverage for transmission costs;





# **NEBRASKA**

- (c) Requirements for the licensing status of health care providers providing telehealth and telemonitoring services; and
- (d) Requirements for demonstrating compliance with the signed written statement requirement in section 71-8505.

NEB. REV. STAT. § 44-312(2)-(3).

Does Medicaid provide coverage for telemental/telebehavioral/ telepsychiatric health services? If so, what are the coverage criteria?

Effective January 1, 2017, Nebraska promulgated rules regarding telehealth for physical and behavior health services, which codified the Medicaid provisions enacted as part of the Nebraska Telehealth Act.

471 NEB. ADMIN. CODE § 1-006 et seq.