

Telemedicine Update, Effective August 1, 2018

- Covered services delivered by telemedicine must be billed using modifiers 95, GT, or GQ, as applicable, to identify the telemedicine technology used to provide the service, **except** for codes defined by Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) as non-face-to-face services, including, but not limited to, telephone codes 99441-99443 and 98966-98968. Reimbursement for these telephone codes will be updated based upon 2017 relative value units (RVUs).
- Covered telemedicine services billed with the 95, GT, or GQ modifier rendered on or after August 1, 2018 will be reimbursed at a *new methodology for all commercial and Safety Net products which will yield higher reimbursement than the old methodology*. Covered telemedicine services provided to Medicare Advantage members will continue to reimburse at the same rate as in-person visits.
- Under the new methodology, covered telemedicine services rendered on or after August 1, 2018, provided to commercial and Safety Net members and billed with modifier 95, GT or GQ will be paid based upon the full work and malpractice expense relative value units (RVU) plus 50% of the Practice Expense RVUs. In other words, the 50% reduction in reimbursement will apply to the Practice Expense (i.e. office overhead) RVUs only. *Overall reimbursement will be significantly higher under the new methodology*.
- Here is an illustrative example which compares the old methodology to the new methodology for code 99213 using *hypothetical reimbursement* of \$76.00 for a face-to-face visit.

2017 GPCI Adjusted RVUs

Code	Description	GPCI Work	GPCI Non-Fac PE RVU	GPCI Mal Prac RVU	GPCI NonFac Total RVUs	PE/Total NF RVUs
99213	Office/outpatient visit established patient	0.97	0.97	0.05	1.98	48.73%

Old methodology effective for services rendered through July 31, 2018:			New methodology effective for services rendered on or after August 1, 2018:		
99213	<i>Sample commercial rate</i>			\$76.00	
Current	50% reduction	\$38.00	New methodology sample	PE RVUs (48.73% * \$76.00) = \$37.03	
				Reduction of 50% PE RVUs = \$18.52	
Prior to 8/1/2018 reduction Reimbursement =		\$38	Post 8/1/18 reduction Reimbursement =		\$57.48

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