Medicare Telehealth Waivers Continue Until March 2025



2/7/2025

In late 2024, Congress enacted the American Relief Act, 2025, extending critical programs and appropriations through March 31, 2025. The Act includes a three-month extension through March 31, 2025 of Medicare telehealth waivers initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, which had been set to expire on December 31, 2024.

The following waivers were extended:

• Removal of geographic restrictions and preservation of the expanded list of originating sites, including patients' homes.

• Expansion of the list of eligible distant-site practitioners (e.g. physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors).

• Inclusion of federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics serving as distant-site providers.

• Payment for audio-only telehealth services.

• Waiver of in-person visit requirements for behavioral and mental health.

• Inclusion of the Acute Care Hospital at Home waiver. The following waivers were discontinued:

• Reimbursement for cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services provided via telehealth.

• Permission for high-deductible health plans to cover telehealth services before the deductible without affecting health saving account eligibility.

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For more information, contact:
Keith J. Roberts | 973.364.5201 | kroberts@bracheichler.com
Edward J. Yun | 973.364.5229 | eyun@bracheichler.com
Vanessa Coleman | 973.364.5208 | vcoleman@bracheichler.com

Authors

The following attorneys contributed to this insight.



Keith J. Roberts

Member
Litigation, Healthcare Law

973.364.5201 · 973.618.5585 Fax

kroberts@bracheichler.com



Edward J. Yun

Member
Healthcare Law

973.364.5229 · 973.618.5589 Fax

eyun@bracheichler.com



Vanessa Coleman

Associate
Healthcare Law

973.364.5208 · 973.618.5566 Fax

vcoleman@bracheichler.com