

Medicare Telehealth Waivers Continue Until March 2025



Healthcare Law Update

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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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