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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

COVID-19 ADVISORY

March 20, 2020 | RE: TELEMEDICINE

Several health insurers are waiving cost-sharing requirements for COVID-19 testing and treatment. TDI has been instructed to issue an emergency rule directing health plans to pay in-network health professionals at least the same rate for telemedicine services as for in-person services. The emergency rule will apply to specialists including mental health professionals.

The Texas Department of Insurance is providing helpful information for consumers seeking COVID-19 testing and treatment at: <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/news/2020/coronavirus-updates.html>.

HHSC has contacted managed care organizations (MCOs) about existing flexibility to provide teleservices and the ability for a member's home to be a place of service. In addition, HHSC has provided clarification that CHIP co-payments are not required for covered services delivered via telemedicine or telehealth to CHIP members. HHSC notified MCOs on March 9, 2020.

Effective immediately, HHSC will begin reimbursing Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHCs) as telemedicine (physician-delivered) and telehealth (non-physician-delivered) service distant site providers. HHSC provided notice on March 18, 2020.

MCOs with questions may email [MCO COVID-19 Inquiries@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:MCO_COVID-19_Inquiries@hhsc.state.tx.us), and all others may email [Medicaid COVID Questions@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Medicaid_COVID_Questions@hhsc.state.tx.us).