**TELEMEDICINE BILLING & DOCUMENTATION BASED ON TIME DURING COVID-19 / PHE** (*Public Health Emergency*)

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**TELEMEDICINE**

***WHAT IS TOTAL TIME?***

* **DEFINITION:** A level of billable service based on cumulative time of service to the patient
* **SAME DAY ONLY:** Must be time spent **only** on the calendar day of the telemedicine service
* **SERVICES:** medically necessary servicesto the patient including non-face to face activities:
  + *record review*
  + *documentation*
  + *counseling* & *coordination of care with other providers*
  + *other*

***WHAT CANNOT BE BILLED AS PART OF TOTAL TIME?***

* **DELAYS RESULTING IN WAITING:** 
  + *Late patients*
  + *Technical issues*

***HOW TO DOCUMENT TOTAL TIME***

* **YOU MUST DOCUMENT:** 
  + *Total Time you spent*
  + *Summary of Activities that you performed*

EXAMPLE*: “I spent \_\_ minutes engaged in activities related to this visit which included*

*records review, documentation [and coordination with other providers] as*

*documented above.”*

***MUST I BILL BY TOTAL TIME?***

* **NO:**
  + You may instead bill based on MDM (Medical Decision Making)
  + See [*COVID 19 Provider Documentation and Billing Guidelines Ambulatory Services*](http://depts.washington.edu/dbpeds/COVID%2019%20-Ambulatory%20Provider%20Documentation%20and%20Billing.pdf)

for details about what is required for each MDM billing level

***HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR BILLABLE CHARGE***

* ***CIS* FEE SHEET:** Choose a box in the “Telemedicine” section, toward to end of *CIS* Fee Sheet
  + **If I choose a non-Telemedicine box but bill by these rules?** *Error, prone to overbilling*
* **LEVEL OF SERVICE:** Time thresholds (determined by Total Time) are listed on the *CIS* Fee Sheet
* **PART-TELEMEDICINE & PART-TELEPHONE ENCOUNTER:** If Telemedicine gets interrupted by technological or other interference, select the CPT code that represents the medium (i.e., telemedicine vs. phone) on which you spent majority of the time (per CMS instructions)

EXAMPLE*: 20 minutes Telemedicine + 15 minutes phone* Bills As *35 minutes Telemedicine*

* **IF THERE IS NO TELEMEDICINE CODE ON YOUR *CIS* FEE SHEET**
  + Select the appropriate E/M service
  + Add the modifier ‘GT’ to your service
    - *right-click after choosing a service level box*
    - *a modifier list will appear - GT*

**TEACHING PHYSICIAN RULES**

***WHAT COUNTS AS “PHYSICAL PRESENCE” FOR TEACHING ATTENDING PHYSICIANS?***

* **VIRTUAL & SYNCHRONOUS:** Virtual synchronous audiovisual presence
* **LOCATION:** You do not need to be in the same physical location as the resident
* **TWO-WAY AUDIOVISUAL:** You must be able to participate in the service via 2-way AV communication

**TELEPHONE VISITS**

***HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR BILLABLE CHARGE***

* **TOTAL TIME IS DIFFERENT:** Unlike Telemedicine, you can bill only for time spent on the phone
* ***CIS* FEE SHEET:** Choose the “Miscellaneous” box
* **TYPE OF SERVICE:** Select ‘Telephone Visit’
* **NOTE THE TIME:** List the Time of the call