

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 555
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H555-PCS10623-SH-12

Short Title: Modernize Medicaid Telemedicine Policies.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 3, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO MEDICAID AND NC HEALTH CHOICE
3 TELEMEDICINE AND TELEPSYCHIATRY POLICIES TO FACILITATE INCREASED
4 ACCESS TO SERVICES, EVOLVE WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY, AND ALIGN
5 WITH BEST PRACTICES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall make
8 the following changes to the Medicaid and NC Health Choice Clinical Coverage Policy No. 1H,
9 Telemedicine and Telepsychiatry:

- 10 (1) DHHS shall reimburse for telemedicine and telepsychiatry services performed
11 in a recipient's home or delivered from a licensed practitioner's home.
12 (2) A referral shall not be required for the use of telemedicine or telepsychiatry
13 services.
14 (3) The delivery of telemedicine or telepsychiatry over the phone or by video cell
15 phone shall be covered.
16 (4) A referring provider and a receiving provider shall be allowed to bill for
17 facility fees related to the provision of telemedicine or telepsychiatry on the
18 same date of service.
19 (5) Telemedicine and telepsychiatry services shall not be subject to the exact same
20 restrictions as face-to-face contacts. The clinical coverage policy shall be
21 updated to align the policy with best practices for telemedicine and
22 telepsychiatry.
23 (6) All behavioral health providers who are directly enrolled as providers in the
24 Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs, including licensed professional
25 counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, certified clinical
26 supervisors, and licensed clinical addictions specialists, shall be included in
27 the coverage policy as providers who may bill Medicaid or NC Health Choice
28 for telemedicine and telepsychiatry services and as providers who may bill for
29 a facility fee.

30 In addition to the changes to Clinical Coverage Policy No. 1H, Telemedicine and
31 Telepsychiatry, DHHS is directed to expand the billing code set available for telemedicine and
32 telepsychiatry to include most outpatient billing codes, including family therapy and
33 psychotherapy for crisis. With the exception of family therapy, the expanded billing codes shall
34 not include group-type therapies.

35 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit to the
36 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or amendments to the NC Medicaid



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1 State Plan necessary to implement this act. The changes required by Section 1 of this act shall be
2 effective after the completion of the process for amending policy that is required under
3 G.S. 108A-54.2.

4 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.