



JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Telemedicine Study and Recommendations

S.L. 2017-133

Maggie Sauer

Department of Health and Human Services

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SL 2017-133 Report Recommendations

DHHS firmly believes that telemedicine can improve the health of our population if we respond effectively to two opportunities:

- 1) 1115 Medicaid Waiver
- 2) Broadband Infrastructure

To Effectively Respond to these Opportunities:

(1) Adopt a Uniform Definition of the Term Telemedicine

- Adopt the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)'s definition of telehealth and telemedicine.

(2) Describe the scope of services that can be covered by telemedicine

- Support the development of telemedicine programs that:
 - Increase access to care
 - Uphold the standard of care
 - Improve patient satisfaction
 - Reduce costs
 - Engage practitioners to provide care at the top of their licenses.

(3) Determine acceptable communication and data transfer speeds necessary to ensure the privacy of health information and appropriate for insurance reimbursement

- North Carolina Office of Broadband Infrastructure 2017 Broadband Report recommendations should be enacted as quickly
- Eligible providers and institutions should **participate in NC HealthConnex**
- Covered entities and business associates must follow all federal and state regulations to secure protected health information

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(4) Informed Consent Standards

- Adopt the American Telemedicine Association's standards for informed consent

(5) Online Prescribing Standards

- Telemedicine practitioners must abide by all federal regulations for E-Prescribing
 - Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act
 - Controlled Substances Act

(6) Telemedicine provider licensing standards

- Adopt the American Telemedicine Association's standards for informed consent

(7) Private payer telemedicine reimbursement standards

- Further study and stakeholder input are needed

(8) Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

- DHHS supports the position of the North Carolina Psychological Association, that North Carolina should create legislation to participate in PSYPACT