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### What is the definition of “telemedicine” or “telehealth”?

Oregon’s Medicaid program defines “telemedicine” as “the use of medical information, exchanged from one site to another, via telephonic or electronic communications, to improve a patient’s health status.”

[Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division, Integrated Health Programs, Medical-Surgical Services Administrative Rulebook 410-130-0610 \(May 25, 2017\).](#)

[OR. ADMIN. R. § 410-130-0610\(1\).](#)

## PSYCHIATRISTS

### What are the restrictions on the scope of practice for psychiatrists practicing via telemedicine/telehealth?

None identified.

However, in its January 2012 “Statements of Philosophy” regarding telemedicine, the Oregon Medical Board states the following:

The Oregon Medical Board considers the full use of the patient history, physical examination, and additional laboratory or other technological data all important components of the physician’s evaluation to arrive at diagnosis and to develop therapeutic plans. In those circumstances when one or more of those methods are not used in the patient’s evaluation, the physician is held to the same standard of care for the patient’s outcome.

[Oregon Medical Board, Statements of Philosophy: Telemedicine \(Jan. 2012\).](#)

### Are there any licensing requirements specific to telemedicine/telehealth (e.g., requirements to be licensed in the state where the patient is located)?

“A person may not engage in the practice of medicine across state lines . . . unless the person is licensed in accordance with ORS 677.139 (License to practice medicine across state lines).”

[OR. REV. STAT. § 677.137\(1\).](#)



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### PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

What are the specific privacy/confidentiality requirements involving mental health records?

**Updated citation:** [OR. ADMIN. R. §§ 309-032-0341\(1\)\(d\), \(f\).](#)

Are there privacy/confidentiality requirements specifically related to telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services?

**Updated citation:** [OR. ADMIN. R. §§ 410-130-0610\(3\)\(c\)\(B\)–\(C\).](#)

### COVERAGE & REIMBURSEMENT

Are there provisions requiring certain reimbursement levels/amounts for telemedicine/telehealth services (including telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services)?

“Patient consultations using telephone and online or electronic mail (e-mail) are covered when billed services comply with the practice guidelines set forth by the Health Service Commission (HSC) and the applicable HSC-approved code requirements, delivered consistent with the HSC practice guideline[.]”

“Patient consultations using videoconferencing, a synchronous (live two-way interactive) video transmission resulting in real time communication between a medical practitioner located in a distant site and the client being evaluated and located in an originating site, is covered when billed services comply with the billing requirements stated in below[.]”

[OR. ADMIN. R. §§ 410-130-0610\(4\)\(b\)–\(c\).](#)

[Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division, Integrated Health Programs, Medical-Surgical Services Administrative Rulebook 410-130-0610 \(May 25, 2017\).](#)

Does Medicaid provide coverage for telemental/telebehavioral/telepsychiatric health services? If so, what are the coverage criteria?

**Updated citation:** [Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division, Integrated Health Programs, Medical-Surgical Services Administrative Rulebook 410-130-0610 \(May 25, 2017\).](#)

Specifically, for purposes of “behavioral health services” delivered via telemedicine,



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“the Authority shall provide coverage for telemedicine services to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were provided in person.”

[Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division, Integrated Health Programs, Behavioral Health Services Administrative Rulebook 410-172-0850 \(Apr. 4, 2017\).](#)

“Behavioral Health” is defined as “mental health, mental illness, addiction disorders, and substance use disorders.”

“Behavioral Health Services” are defined as “medically appropriate services rendered or made available to a recipient for treatment of a behavioral health or substance use disorders diagnosis.”

[Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division, Integrated Health Programs, Behavioral Health Services Administrative Rulebook 410-172-0600 \(Apr. 4, 2017\).](#)