

RCW 74.09.327 Audio-only telemedicine—Fee-for-service

reimbursement. (1) The authority shall adopt rules regarding medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement for services delivered through audio-only telemedicine. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the rules must establish a manner of reimbursement for audio-only telemedicine that is consistent with RCW 74.09.325.

(2) The rules shall require rural health clinics to be reimbursed for audio-only telemedicine at the rural health clinic encounter rate.

(3) (a) For purposes of this section, "audio-only telemedicine" means the delivery of health care services through the use of audio-only technology, permitting real-time communication between a patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment.

(b) For purposes of this section only, "audio-only telemedicine" does not include:

(i) The use of facsimile or email; or

(ii) The delivery of health care services that are customarily delivered by audio-only technology and customarily not billed as separate services by the provider, such as the sharing of laboratory results. [2021 c 157 s 6.]

Conflict with federal requirements—2021 c 157: "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. Nothing in this act alters the requirement for the health care authority to report potential fraud to the medicaid fraud control division of the Washington attorney general's office under 42 C.F.R. 455.21." [2021 c 157 s 10.]