



SB 671 Healthcare Package – Telehealth

Telemedicine and virtual care have evolved as essential tools in caring for patients. On account of the COVID pandemic, parity in reimbursement between video and face-to-face visits (in [IL Medicaid](#) and [Medicare](#)) now includes *both* audio-only and video encounters. **This parity makes permanent sense.**

Telemedicine, as part of health information technology (HIT), is a critical element in improving health care delivery. For that reason, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians supports efforts to make information technologies more easily accessible and affordable to the our primary health care providers who see the majority of patients nationwide. We also back privacy protection measures for patients, as well as standards and protocols that allow health care information to flow freely between physicians, payers, patients, and pharmacies. the exchange of medical information from one site to another through electronic communications.

Family physicians wholeheartedly support expanded use of telehealth and telemedicine as an appropriate and efficient means of improving health: they can enhance patient-physician collaborations, increase access to care, improve health outcomes by enabling timely care interventions, and decrease costs when utilized as a component of, and coordinated with, longitudinal care.

Our national organization, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) offers this [background brief](#).

Related Resources:

[American Health Information Management Association Telemedicine Toolkit](#)

[CMS Fact Sheet: Physicians and Other Practitioners](#)

[Rural Health Clinics \(RHCs\) and Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHCs\)](#)

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) represents over 5,000 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students dedicated to promoting the value of the specialty of family medicine and improving health for all through advocacy, education and action.

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