

Provider Bulletin
June 2020

Guidance for well-child visits provided via telemedicine

This communication applies to the Medicaid programs for Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. and Clear Health Alliance.

To assist with the response efforts to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) state of emergency, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) has provided additional flexibilities for providers via telehealth to ensure continuity of care for recipients. The purpose of guide is to promote health and wellness through preventive care during the COVID-19 state of emergency by expanding telemedicine to include well-child visits.

Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. and Clear Health Alliance (Simply) will cover well-child visits using telemedicine (live/two-way communication that includes audio and video) during the state of emergency for children **older than 24 months through 20 years** for the following procedure codes:

- 99382 to 99385
- 99392 to 99395

Providers are required to append the above procedure codes with the GT modifier for live, two-way communication. Simply will reimburse services provided via telemedicine at the same rate that is paid if the services were delivered through a face-to-face encounter (for example, payment parity).

Immunizations

Though you may be able to conduct the majority of the well-child visit components via telemedicine, you must ensure you schedule a follow-up visit to administer immunizations and other physical components of the exam that could not be delivered using telemedicine. The use of immunizations is the cornerstone to reducing and eliminating preventable diseases. As such, immunizations should be scheduled as soon as possible to ensure children can remain on schedule for these important services.

Well-child visits for children 24 months and younger

In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, providers should prioritize in-person newborn care, newborn well-visits, and immunization of infants and young children through 24 months of age. Simply will not reimburse for well-child visits performed via telemedicine for children 24 months and younger.