




Secretary's Report to Congress on Reducing Barriers to Furnishing Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services Using Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring for Pediatric Populations under Medicaid

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

Joanne Jee

October 30, 2020

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Overview

- Background
- Findings
- Possible areas for MACPAC comment
- Next steps

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Background

- The SUPPORT Act (P.L. 115-271) mandated the report
- Directs the Secretary to analyze and report on:
 - best practices,
 - barriers and potential solutions,
 - differences in utilization and cost,
 - avoidable inpatient admissions and readmissions,
 - quality, and
 - satisfaction with telehealth for SUD services for children with Medicaid coverage.

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Findings: Knowledge and data gaps

- There are knowledge gaps about the use of telehealth for SUD services for pediatric populations
- Findings pertain to telehealth for behavioral health or general health services

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Findings: Best practices

- Best practices for tele-behavioral health that could apply to pediatric SUD services include:
 - Ensuring organizational readiness
 - Engaging staff
 - Using synchronous modalities
 - Using support staff
 - Using telehealth in school-based programs

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Findings: Differences between telehealth and in-person visits

- Utilization varies by population and location in general, but there were no studies comparing telehealth and in-person
- Costs may be comparable to in-person services, but data on total cost of care or savings are lacking
- Data are limited, but some studies show mixed results on use of urgent care or emergency department visits
- Quality is similar to face-to-face care
- Satisfaction appears to be favorable but depends on patient and provider access to and views on technology, and for patients, demographics

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Findings: Barriers and solutions

- Payment policy
- Lack of technology
- Acceptance of telehealth
- Workforce and capacity constraints
- Licensure and credentialing
- Other barriers

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Possible areas for MACPAC comment

- Need for additional research
- Gaps in Medicaid data
- Information on state Medicaid approaches for using telehealth
- Non-Medicaid barriers to telehealth use

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Next steps

- Decision on whether to send a letter
- Staff to draft letter based on discussion
- Other topics areas to include?

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