



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

16 East Hwy 61, PO Box 40, Esko, MN 55733

P. (218) 655-5018 F. (218)451-4511

www.nlsec.org

Dena Hagen ~ Special Education Director

NLSEC Guide to Completing Telemedicine MA Billing During Distance Learning and the COVID-19 Emergency

The below is paraphrased from MDE's document, [Special Education and COVID-19 Questions and Answers: Special Education Instruction, Services, Programming, Funding and Resources](#)

Telemedicine usually refers to the delivery of health care services or consultations while the child or youth is at one site and the licensed provider is at a distant site. Telemedicine may be provided with real-time two-way, interactive audio and visual communications, including secure videoconferencing or store-and-forward technology and Telephonic Telemedicine is the delivery through telephone communication to: provide or support health care delivery; and to facilitate assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, and care management.

These definitions are important for when special education services, especially distance learning delivery of related services, are considered for possible MA reimbursement to a school district.

Instructions:

(remember there is also a video attached to the email this document came in for reference as well)

The NLSEC has adjusted the MA Forms in SpEd forms to be ready for you to complete telemedicine activity logs for service during distance learning- different than the logs used before in a few ways:

1. Service dropdowns have been added to include a 'telemedicine' version

Physical Therapy Eval (Telemedicine) 2020
Physical Therapy Services (Telemedicine) 2020
Occupational Therapy Eval (Telemedicine) 2020
Occupational Therapy Services (Telemedicine) 2020
Speech Therapy/Audiology Eval (Telemedicine) 2020
Speech Therapy/Audiology Services (Telemedicine) 2020
Mental Health Eval (Telemedicine) 2020

2. An ICD-10 code needs to be set up for the student that "talks" to the new telemedicine activity log, with a start date of 3/19/20. You can copy/paste the SAME ICD-10 codes and descriptions you have been using for the student, they just need the start date updated to reflect the distance learning period.

3. Use the same setting code 03 as you usually would, for now. If we receive other directions from DHS, we will let people know.

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| 04/30/2020 | Time Spent Providing Service | Number of Children |
| 03: School | 20 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Billable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter a description of the actual services provided relating to activities, results, response, progress, and plan for next session. For interpreter services, include description of service provided and the interpreter service. Use as many lines as necessary to complete documentation. | |
| Edited by: Name: Shannon Proulx Date: 04/30/2020 15:41 PM | | |

4. The 'description of services' box has an additional drop down (verbiage below) that needs to be included in **ALL** telemedicine activity logs during distance learning periods.

This provider's basis for determining that telemedicine is an appropriate and effective means for delivering service to this recipient is due to COVID19 distance learning implementation

5. Below the Start/End times, additional drop-downs are added to choose appropriate mode and locations and must be a part of the log. Acceptable virtual platforms are listed and **telephone** service is now allowed during distance learning by DHS. If 'other' is chosen, describe it in the description of services box (*The mode of transmission this date was..., the student's originating site was..., or the provider's distant site was...*) *Hint: Hit "Calculate Time" and the minutes will automatically be calculated here and above.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Calculate Time | | | |
| Start: | End: | Time: 15 minutes. | Group size: |
| 11:00 AM | 11:15 AM | | 1 |
| Mode of Transmission: | Provider Location: | Student Location: | |
| Google Hangouts Meet | Provider's Home | Student's Home | |

6. Save and finalize. Your name with date/time stamp is automatically entered and **considered an acceptable electronic signature**.

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 04/30/2020 | Time Spent Providing Service | Number of Children in Group |
| 03: School | 20 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Billable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter a description of the actual services provided relating to goals/objective activities, results, response, progress, and plan for next session. For interpreter services, include description of service provided and the interpreter service. Use as many lines as necessary to complete documentation. | |
| Edited by: Name: Dana Hagen Date: 04/30/2020 18:48 PM | | |
| ---Select Option--- This provider's basis for determining that telemedicine is an appropriate and effective means for delivering : | | |

7. Send logs to the NLSEC to be billed. Logs can be downloaded or saved as a PDF and attached to an email to be sent.
8. When distance learning is over and in-person services resume, telemedicine via phone will be suspended. At that time, the NLSEC will also provide you with further guidance on the discontinuation of telemedicine and any adjustments in activity logs going forward.

What activities are covered/billable under the definition of telemedicine?

| Yes | No |
|---|--|
| -Observation of and/or interactions with the child/student via secure, electronically connected platform/website of communication (i.e. HIPAA | -Communication with parent that is conducted via email or fax. |

compliant) or over the telephone. Parent may or may not be present during the observations.

-Communication/discussion between licensed health care providers (e.g. child's physician, OT, PT, Nurse, Speech/Language Pathologist, Audiologist, School Psychologist) occurring prior to the assessment share meeting, and by means of real-time two-way, interactive audio and visual platforms, that is required for purposes of comparing/analyzing/clarifying assessment findings.

-Compiling, scoring, interpreting assessment results, and writing the assessment report.

-Communication among school staff that occur via telephone, email or fax that are considered part of the pre-evaluation review.

-Communication among team members that occur in a remote fashion, and are considered part of the assessment share meeting and the IEP/IFSP development meeting.

-Review of a child's educational records (available to the therapist in paper-based and/or electronic forms) for purposes of examining historical and most currently available documentation of the child's function.

-Supervision evaluations or visits

-Personal care assistant services

-Nursing services

-Transportation services

-Electronic connections that are conducted over a website that is not secure and encrypted as specified by the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 Privacy & Security rules (for example, Skype)

-Scheduling a test or appointment

-Reporting test results

-Non-clinical communication