

HR 366 – Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2021

Sponsor/Cosponsors

Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA-5), Doris Matsui (D-CA-6), David Schweikert (R-AZ-6), Bill Johnson (R-OH-6), Peter Welch (D-VT-At Large), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ-2), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1), Barbara Lee (D-CA-13), John Larson (D-CT-1), Frank Mrvan (D-IN-1), Eric Swalwell (D-CA-15), Filemon Vela (D-TX-34), Daniel Kildee (D-MI-5), Conor Lamb (D-PA-17)

Bill Summary

The Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2021 would ensure expanded use of telehealth after the coronavirus public health emergency by eliminating restrictions on use of telehealth in Medicare and requiring a study on its use during the pandemic. The bill would:

- Eliminate most telehealth geographic and originating site restrictions under Medicare and establish the patient's home as an eligible distant site so patients can receive telehealth care at home;
- Prevent a sudden loss of telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries by authorizing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue reimbursement for telehealth for 90 days beyond the end of the public health emergency;
- Make permanent the disaster waiver authority, enabling the US Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) to expand telehealth in Medicare during future emergencies and disasters; and
- Require a study on the use of telehealth during COVID, including its costs, increased utilization rates, measurable health outcomes, and racial and geographic disparities.

AHIMA's Perspective

AHIMA [believes](#) that public policy related to telehealth must:

- Promote patient and provider choice;
- Ensure parity between telehealth services and in-person services;
- Invest in telehealth infrastructure;
- Prioritize privacy and security;
- Facilitate the delivery of healthcare services across state lines;
- Address disparities in the use and the willingness to use telehealth and remote patient monitoring technologies; and
- Promote program integrity.

This bill supports AHIMA's stance that public policy must ensure that patients and providers are not arbitrarily limited by geography or modality when receiving or offering telehealth services. AHIMA also calls on policymakers to ensure that patients have access to telehealth services anywhere, including at home. Finally, the bill supports reports on and studies into telehealth infrastructure, such as broadband access.

AHIMA's Ask

Support and cosponsor HR 366 to improve the availability of telehealth within the health system. For offices that have already cosponsored, AHIMA thanks you for your support of this important and timely legislation.

To cosponsor H.R.366, please contact Connor Crozer (Crozer.Connor@mail.house.gov).