



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

Legislative Update # 12

May 11, 2021

For those of you who are interested in the continuation of telehealth, I am providing information on the following bill that has been passed and signed by the Governor.

[HB 5596](#) An Act Concerning Telehealth modifies requirements for the delivery of telehealth services and insurance coverage of these services until June 30, 2023 as follows:

- Expands the types of health providers authorized to provide telehealth services
- Allows certain telehealth providers to provide telehealth services using audio-only telephone, which current law prohibits
- Allows certain telehealth providers to use additional information and communication technologies in accordance with federal requirements (e.g., certain third-party video communication applications, such as Apple Facetime)
- Authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to temporarily modify, waive, or suspend certain regulatory requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health
- Establishes requirements for telehealth providers seeking payment from uninsured or underinsured patients
- Requires insurance coverage for telehealth services and prohibits providers reimbursed for services from seeking payment from an insured patient beyond cost sharing
- Prohibits (a) insurance policies from excluding coverage for a telehealth platform selected by an in-network provider and (b) carriers from reducing reimbursement to a provider because services are provided through telehealth instead of in-person.

To review all changes to statute made by HB 5596 please review the adopted language at the link provided above.

As always, I can be reached at mary.mason@ct.gov. While email is the best way to reach me, you can also text or call my cell phone at (860) 985-2120 since I am away from my desk phone.