June 30, 2022

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Karen Fann
Senate President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Russell Bowers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey, President Fann, and Speaker Bowers,

Pursuant to A.R.S §36-3607, please find enclosed the Telehealth Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the telehealth best practice guidelines for health care providers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,
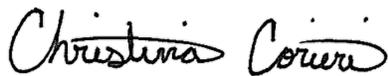
Christina Corieri, Telehealth Advisory Committee Co-Chair

Sara Salek, M.D., Telehealth Advisory Committee Co-Chair

Telehealth Advisory Committee Telehealth Best Practice Guidelines for Health Care Providers

June 2022

Background

By June 30, 2022, the Telehealth Advisory Committee (Committee) is required to submit recommendations regarding telehealth best practice guidelines for health care providers. The Committee began meeting in July 2021 in accordance with A.R.S §36-3607. To further evaluate telehealth best practice guidelines for health care providers, the Committee authorized separate best practice guidelines behavioral and physical health subcommittees to review national and other standards for telehealth best practices and relevant peer-reviewed literature and provide recommendations to the Committee. After initial meetings of the subcommittees, it was determined that in the spirit of healthcare integration, the two subcommittees should be combined to one best practice subcommittee to address both physical and behavioral health best practice guidelines, which was authorized by the Committee.

Best Practice Guidelines Recommendations

The telehealth best practice guidelines subcommittee meetings were held on February 24, March 24 and June 1, 2022. The composition of the subcommittee was made up of the Committee co-chair, committee members, and a non-committee member with telehealth best practice guideline subject matter expertise.

The subcommittee initially discussed the options for the adoption of telehealth best practice guidelines for Arizona, including the development of guidelines directly by the subcommittee. After further evaluation of the availability of best practice guidelines by national organizations, as well as peer-reviewed literature published, the subcommittee made the determination that the adoption of already developed guidelines was the most effective and sustainable strategy for Arizona.

After this determination, the subcommittee synthesized all telehealth best practice guidelines that were identifiable based on web-based searches, including the use of PubMed, and subject matter expert knowledge of guideline availability. After this best practice guideline compilation, the committee reviewed for recommended Arizona adoption based on the following criteria: 1. Guideline relevance to Arizona providers; 2. Provider type(s) targeting; 3. The year the guideline was last updated and if information is still current; 4. Guideline availability in the public domain; and 5. If guideline was pandemic-specific and/or had long-term applicability. Table I identifies the telehealth best practice guidelines that were recommended for Arizona adoption based on this review.

The Telehealth Advisory Committee met on June 23, 2022, and voted unanimously in support of adopting this best practice guideline listing. The Telehealth Advisory Committee will continue to evaluate the need for revisions to this best practice guidelines list at a minimum of annually, including the ongoing review of national and other standards for telehealth best practices and relevant peer-reviewed literature.

Table I. Recommended Telehealth Best Practice Guidelines

Guideline Name	Guideline Source	Guideline Link
General Guidelines		
Best Practices for Healthcare Providers, Telehealth Accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patients (2022)	ACDHH	ACDHH PDF link
Health Industry CyberSecurity-Securing Telehealth and Telemedicine (2021)	HSCC	https://healthsectorcouncil.org/securingtelehealth/
Telehealth Competencies Across the Learning Continuum (2021)	AAMC	https://store.aamc.org/telehealth-competencies-across-the-learning-continuum.html
The Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine (2022)	FSMB	https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/fsmb-workgroup-on-telemedicineapril-2022-final.pdf
Discipline/Field Specific		
Behavioral Health		
Practice Guidelines for Videoconferencing-based Telemental Health (2018)	APA/ATA	https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Practice/Telepsychiatry/APA-ATA-Best-Practices-in-Videoconferencing-Based-Telemental-Health.pdf
Practice Parameters for Telehealth-Implementation of Applied Behavior Analysis, Second Edition (2021)	CASP	https://casproviders1.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Final-Copy-Practice-Parameters-Telehealth-ABA-AMA-References-12.2.2199.pdf
Telehealth for the Treatment of Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders (2021)	SAMHSA	https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA_Digital_Download/PEP21-06-02-001.pdf
Burn and Intensive Care		
Practice Guidelines for Teleburn Care (2016)	ATA	https://www.americantelemed.org/resources/practice-guidelines-for-teleburn-care/
Dermatology		
Dermoscopy practice guidelines for use in telemedicine (2022)	NDM	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-022-00587-9
Practice Guidelines for Dermatology (2016)	ATA	https://www.americantelemed.org/wp-content/themes/ata-custom/download.php?id=1559
Neurology		
Telestroke Guidelines (2017)	ATA	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5802246/pdf/tmj.2017.0006.pdf

Guideline Name	Guideline Source	Guideline Link
Nursing		
Telehealth Competencies for Nursing Education and Practice (2021)	NE	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8395962/
Ophthalmology		
Practice Guidelines for Ocular Telehealth-Diabetic Retinopathy (2020)	TJE	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7187969/
Pediatrics		
Opportunities to Improve Access, Quality, and Cost in Pediatric Care (2022)	AAP	https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/149/3/e2021056035/184902/Telehealth-Opportunities-to-Improve-Access-Quality?autologincheck=redirected
Rehabilitation		
Principles of Delivering Telerehabilitation Services	ATA	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5716618/

AAMC=Association of American Medical Colleges
AAP=American Academy of Pediatrics
ACDHH=Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
ATA=American Telemedicine Association
APA=American Psychiatric Association
CASP=The Council of Autism Service Providers
FSMB=Federation of State Medical Boards
HSCC=Health Sector Coordinating Council
NDM=npj Digital Medicine
NE=Nurse Educator
SAMHSA=Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
TJE=Telemedicine Journal and e-Health