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# FLORIDA MEDICAID

*A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration*

## Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

May 29, 2020

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### Provider Type(s): All

### Well-Child Visits Provided Via Telemedicine During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

To assist with the response efforts to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) state of emergency, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) has provided additional flexibilities for providers via telehealth to ensure continuity of care for recipients. This provides flexibility for well-child visits using telemedicine during the state of emergency for medical providers to ensure continued care.

#### Telemedicine Definition

Telemedicine is the practice of health care delivery by a practitioner who is in a site other than the site where a recipient is located, using interactive telecommunications equipment that minimally includes real time, two-way interactive communication between a recipient and a practitioner using audio and video equipment. The Agency's current telemedicine policy in the fee-for-service delivery system is available at:

[http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/review/General/59G\\_1057\\_TELEMEDICINE.pdf](http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/review/General/59G_1057_TELEMEDICINE.pdf)

#### Telemedicine Well-Child Visits for Children Older than 24 Months Through 20 Years

The Agency understands that well-child visits are just as important as sick visits to ensure children receive quality care at their medical home. Florida Medicaid reimburses for well-child visits in accordance with the recommended [schedule](#) developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. To promote health and wellness through preventive care during the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Agency is expanding telemedicine to include well-child visits.

Providers may render a well-child visit using telemedicine (live/two-way communication that includes audio and video) during the state of emergency for children older than 24 months through 20 years for the following procedure codes:

- 99382-99385

◦ 99392-99395

Providers must append the GT modifier for live, two-way communication. The Agency and the Medicaid health plans will reimburse the same rate as if the service was delivered face-to-face.

Though it may be necessary to conduct a well-child via telemedicine, it is the Agency's expectation that providers actively work to schedule a follow-up visit to administer immunizations and other physical components of the exam that could not be delivered using telemedicine. Immunizations are critical to reducing and eliminating preventable diseases. Immunizations should be scheduled as soon as possible to ensure children can remain on schedule for these important services. The follow-up visit will be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. Additional guidance will be forthcoming regarding the follow-up visit to render the remaining components of the well-child visit (i.e., a comprehensive physical exam and/or immunizations) .

### **Well-Child Visits for Children 24 Months and Younger**

In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics [guidance](#), providers should prioritize in-person newborn care, newborn well-visits, and immunization of infants and young children through 24 months of age. Therefore, Florida Medicaid will not reimburse for well-child visits performed via telemedicine for children ages 24 months and younger.

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**QUESTIONS?** [FLMedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:FLMedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com)  
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