



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Community Health Centers

Medicare Telehealth Bills in the 117th and 116th Congress

Medicare Telehealth Bills in the 117 th Congress – June 2021									
Bill	NACHC Endorsed	Bipartisan	Number of Co-Sponsors House/Senate <i>*As of 6/4/21</i>	FQHC Distant Site Recognition	Pay Parity to PPS Rate/Same as In-person Visit	Removes Originating Site Restrictions*	Extends Past PHE	Audio-only Coverage	Has the Bill Passed?
H.R. 2903/S. 1512 - CONNECT for Health Act of 2021	X	X	19, 55	X	<i>Payment at PPS rate starting from 1st day of PHE</i>	X	X	<i>Sense of Congress resolution to support audio-only coverage</i>	No
H.R. 366 - Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2021	X	X	37	X	<i>Requires pay parity to in-person service after the PHE</i>	X	X	<i>Studies audio-only</i>	No
H.R. 1332/S. 368 - Telehealth Modernization Act	<i>*NACHC did not endorse this bill because of pay parity reimbursement provisions</i>	X	55, 11	X		X	X		No

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S.150 - Ensuring Parity in MA for Audio-Only Telehealth Act of 2021 -		X	6	<i>Does not extend FQHC distant site recognition past PHE</i>	<i>Pay parity to in-person visit only during PHE</i>			<i>Takes into account audio-only diagnosis (and other telehealth diagnosis) when setting MA plan capitation rates</i>	No
H.R. 2166 - Ensuring Parity in MA and PACE for Audio-Only Telehealth Act		X	27	<i>Does not extend FQHC distant site recognition past PHE</i>	<i>Pay parity to in-person visit only during PHE</i>			<i>Takes into account audio-only diagnosis (and other telehealth diagnosis) when setting MA plan and PACE capitation rates</i>	No
H.R. 1406 - COVID-19 Emergency Telehealth Impact Reporting Act of 2021		X	5					<i>Studies audio-only</i>	No
<i>NACHC is continuing to update this chart as new telehealth bills are introduced during the 117th Congress.</i>									

*Under the Medicare statute, billable telehealth services may be furnished only where the telehealth patient is located at a valid “originating site,” as defined in the law. Originating site facilities receive a fee (\$27.02 in CY2021) to cover the technology costs of the telehealth service. To qualify as an “originating site,” a location must (1) be one of various categories of facilities listed in the law (including FQHCs); AND (2) be located in a geographically remote area (in a HPSA or in a county outside an MSA). In this chart, “Removes Originating Site Restrictions” means that the bill would: (1) delete the geographical remoteness requirement for originating sites (see 1834(m)(4)(C)(i), so that any FQHC could receive the telehealth originating site facility fee, regardless of rural or urban location; AND (2) recognize patients’ homes as qualifying “originating sites” for telehealth services. Please note that under each bill, the originating site facility fee would be available only if the patient is located in one of the types of facilities listed in 1834(m)(4)(C)(ii) (which includes FQHCs), rather than in their homes or other locations.

NACHC Endorsed Telehealth Bills in the 116th Congress

Bill	NACHC Endorsed	Bipartisan	Number of Co-Sponsors House/Senate	FQHC Distant Site Recognition	Pay Parity to PPS Rate/Same as In-person Visit	Removes Originating Site Restrictions	Extends Past PHE	Audio-only Coverage	Has the Bill Passed?
H.R. 4932/S. 2741 - CONNECT for Health Act of 2019	X	X	68, 46	X	X	<i>Waives geographic component of originating site rules for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and RHCs</i>	<i>Introduced before the COVID-19 pandemic, effective January 2021</i>		No
H.R. 7663 - Protecting Access to Post COVID-19 Telehealth Act	X	X	47	X	<i>Requires pay parity to in-person service after January 1, 2021</i>	<i>Removes the geographic component, but leaves the facility component of originating site restrictions in place; adds the patient's home as an originating site for any service.</i>	X		No

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H.R. 7187 - Helping Ensure Access to Local Telehealth (HEALTH) Act of 2020	X	X	15	X	<i>Payment at PPS rate starting from 1st day of PHE</i>	<i>Waives facility and geographic originating site requirements for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and RHCs</i>	X		No
H.R. 6792/S. 3998 - Improving Telehealth for Underserved Communities Act	X	X	10, 7		<i>Payment at PPS rate starting from 1st day of PHE</i>		X		No
H.R. 7760 - COVID-19 Telehealth Program Extension Act	X	X	13						<i>The bill did not pass, but \$200 million for the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program was incorporated into the CARES Act.</i>

