



Funding Landscape for Telemental Health: a National Perspective

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Medicare & Telehealth – the Bad

- “1834 Restrictions”
 - On pt. geographic location
 - On pt. facility type
 - On provider type
 - On covered services
- Must be live, 2-way, A/V
- FQHCs cannot be distant site



Medicare & Telehealth – the Good

- Payment parity
- Facility fee
- New “not telehealth” services:
 - Remote patient monitoring
 - Some asynchronous services
 - Peer-to-peer consultations
 - “Virtual check-ins”



Medicare & Telemental Health

- Covered services include:
 - Health & behavior assessment/intervention
 - Pharmacologic management
 - Psychiatric diagnostic interview exam
 - Neurobehavioral status exam
 - Alcohol & SA
 - Psychoanalysis
 - Family psychotherapy
 - Psychiatry services



Photo courtesy of Steward Health Choice Arizona

New Medicare Coverage!

- **SUPPORT for Patients & Communities Act:**
 - Removed geographic restriction & allowed pt. home for SUD & co-occurring MH disorders starting 7/1/19
 - Payment for OUD tx by Opioid Treatment Programs starting 1/1/2020
- **BBA of 2018:** MA Plans can offer expanded coverage not subject to geographic restriction starting 2020



CMS Proposed Medicare Coverage

- **Proposed 2020 Physician Fee Schedule – telemental health**
 - 3 new codes for bundled episode of care for tx of OUD
 - For OUD tx by Opioid Treatment Programs, would allow counseling & therapy (F2F components) to be delivered via live interactive video
 - 1834 restrictions don't apply to OTPs
 - Comments due 9/27/19



More Congressional Action?

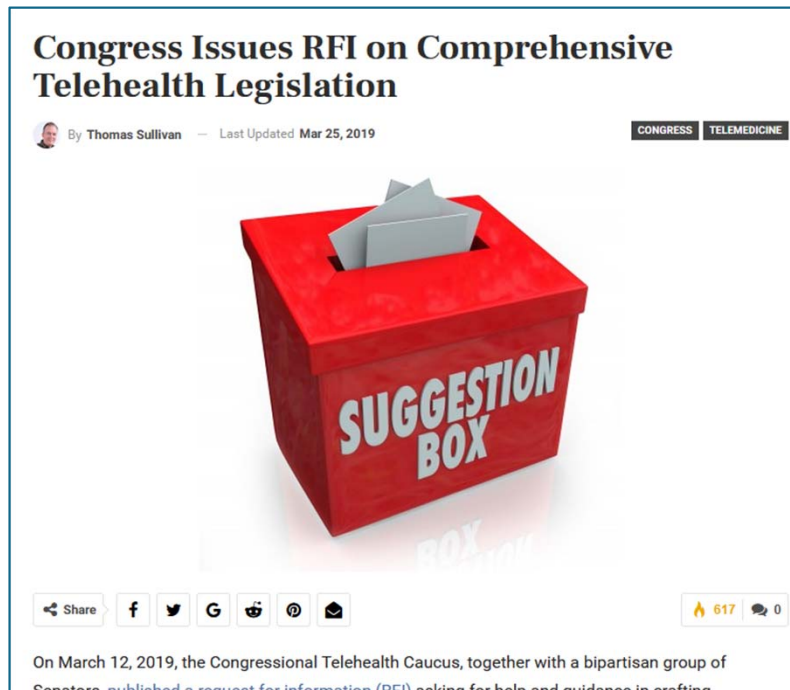
- **HR 1301 – Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act**
 - Removes originating site limit for pts. seeking mental health care
 - Pt. home becomes accepted originating site (no facility fee)
 - In-person assessment required 1st
 - Introduced in House 2/15/2019; early support by AARP



The screenshot shows a news article from mHEALTH INTELLIGENCE. The article title is "Congress to Try Again on Medicare Coverage for Telemental Health". The sub-headline reads: "Congress will once again mull a bill aimed at reimbursing healthcare providers who use telehealth or telemedicine to provide mental health services to Medicare recipients at home." Below the text is an image of a wooden head profile with three colorful puzzle pieces (red, blue, and green) on top. The article is attributed to "By Eric Wicklund" and dated "March 07, 2019". The source is cited as "ThinkStock".

More Congressional Action?

- Bipartisan Telehealth Caucus!



THANK YOU!

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