

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 706 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, V. BROWN, KIRKLAND, READSHAW, THOMAS AND
TRUITT, MARCH 4, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, MARCH 4, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, providing for telehealth.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Title 40 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
6 Statutes is amended by adding a part to read:

7 PART IV

8 HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

9 Chapter

10 71. Telehealth

11 CHAPTER 71

12 TELEHEALTH

13 Sec.

14 7101. Definitions.

15 7102. Provision of coverage.

16 7103. Applicability.

17 § 7101. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Health care professional." An individual who is licensed,
4 certified or otherwise regulated to provide health care services
5 under the laws of this Commonwealth.

6 "Health care services." Services for the diagnosis,
7 prevention, treatment, cure or relief of a health condition,
8 injury, disease or illness.

9 "Health insurance policy." As follows:

10 (1) An individual or group health insurance policy,
11 contract or plan that provides medical or health care
12 coverage by a health care facility or licensed health care
13 provider that is offered by or is governed under any of the
14 following:

15 (i) The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
16 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

17 (ii) The act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701,
18 No.364), known as the Health Maintenance Organization
19 Act.

20 (iii) Chapter 61 (relating to hospital plan
21 corporations).

22 (iv) Chapter 63 (relating to professional health
23 services plan corporations).

24 (2) The term does not include accident only, fixed
25 indemnity, limited benefit, credit, dental, vision, specified
26 disease, Medicare supplement, Civilian Health and Medical
27 Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) supplement, long-
28 term care or disability income, workers' compensation or
29 automobile medical payment insurance.

30 "Telehealth." The remote interaction between a health care

1 professional and a patient through the use of any of the
2 following:

3 (1) A video camera transmission.

4 (2) A computer video transmission.

5 (3) An electronic health monitoring device.

6 (4) Another telecommunications device that delivers
7 health information concerning a patient to a health care
8 professional.

9 § 7102. Provision of coverage.

10 An insurer that issues, delivers, executes or renews a health
11 insurance policy in this Commonwealth shall provide coverage for
12 telehealth under the following conditions, as determined by the
13 patient's health care professional:

14 (1) The use of telehealth is appropriate for the
15 patient.

16 (2) The health care professional is able to maintain
17 proper direct examination of the patient or direct
18 examination of the patient is not necessary.

19 (3) The use of telehealth is expected to result in lower
20 health care costs than if it were not used.

21 § 7103. Applicability.

22 This chapter applies as follows:

23 (1) If a rate or form is required to be filed with the
24 Federal Government or the department, this chapter applies to
25 a health insurance policy for which the rate or form is first
26 filed on or after the effective date of this chapter.

27 (2) If a rate or form is not required to be filed with
28 the Federal Government or the department, this chapter
29 applies to a health insurance policy issued or renewed on or
30 after 180 days after the effective date of this chapter.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.