

RE:

From: Ben Bucher benb@tcmedcenter.org
To: Westlind, Greg gwestlind@nd.gov
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 8:14 AM

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Greg,

As a Rural Health Clinic, we are not compensated at all for telehealth visits. However, during the pandemic we were allowed to provide telehealth visits, but this was a waiver due to COVID and will expire. We did about 100 telehealth visits during the pandemic. Now that our ability to continue to provide telehealth will likely go away, BCBS pays us a facility fee of about \$58.00 per visit. Medicare and Medicaid will then pay us a percentage of the \$58.00. So, as you can see, continuing to provide telehealth is not feasible with this type of reimbursement. A non-Rural Health Clinic such as Sanford or Altru are reimbursed at much higher rates from BCBS, this is why the Big 6 PPS hospitals push for telehealth. Furthermore as we talked about recently, we have to carve all of our costs related to telehealth out of our cost report as they are considered non-allowable costs.

Hope this helps,

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From: Westlind, Greg [<mailto:gwestlind@nd.gov>]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 11:13 AM
To: benb@tcmedcenter.org