



## **Medicare to End Expanded Telehealth Coverage in April 2025: What You Need to Know Right Now**

AACU Government Affairs wants our members to know about the recent telehealth changes in case you have not heard. We would like to emphasize that this is only for Medicare at this time, but other payers will likely follow suit.

Medicare's expanded telehealth coverage, initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to end in April 2025. This policy change will significantly impact millions of beneficiaries who have relied on virtual healthcare services for routine check-ups, mental health care, and specialist consultations.

### **Key Changes:**

- **End of Temporary Expansion:** The pandemic-era flexibility that allowed broader telehealth access will expire.
- **Geographic Restrictions:** Patients in urban areas may no longer qualify for telehealth services, as pre-pandemic rules primarily limited coverage to rural regions.
- **In-Person Visit Requirements:** Medicare beneficiaries may need to schedule in-person visits to maintain eligibility for certain telehealth services, particularly for mental health care.
- **Limited Provider Options:** Some providers may no longer offer telehealth to Medicare patients due to reimbursement reductions.

### **Impact on Patients and Providers:**

- **Patients in Rural and Underserved Areas:** Many who benefited from the convenience of telehealth will face challenges accessing care, especially if they have mobility issues or lack nearby providers.
- **Mental Health Services:** The rollback could disrupt care for individuals receiving virtual therapy or psychiatric consultations, requiring them to visit offices instead.
- **Healthcare Providers:** Physicians and clinics that integrated telehealth into their practices may need to adjust their operations or see fewer Medicare patients.

### **Potential Legislative Action:**

While some lawmakers and advocacy groups are pushing for a permanent extension of Medicare's telehealth benefits, no final decision has been made.