

U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs  
Division of Energy Employees Occupational  
Illness Compensation  
Washington, DC 20210



EEOICPA CIRCULAR NO. 22-01

DATE: December 15, 2021

Subject: Telemedicine Services for Non-Emergency Routine Physician Appointments

The Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) recognizes the value of the use of telemedicine in lieu of non-emergency, in-person routine medical appointments between physicians and beneficiaries. Telemedicine services (including phone, video conferencing or similar technologies) help facilitate engagement with a physician for those beneficiaries with debilitating occupational illnesses that make travel difficult. For beneficiaries residing some distance from a medical provider's physical office location, telemedicine represents a convenient and cost-effective option for communicating with a physician. Telemedicine also reduces the risk of the communal spread of infectious disease, especially among beneficiaries with compromised autoimmune or other high-risk diseases.

Given the medical advantages of telemedicine, DEEOIC is making a programmatic decision to provide payment to physicians who utilize the option to conduct routine medical care through telemedicine (when that care is associated directly with one or more accepted conditions) without pre-authorization. A physician may choose to conduct routine medical appointments utilizing telemedicine options the physician believes will provide the most appropriate medical benefit to the beneficiary. The option to utilize telemedicine is at the discretion of the physician, if allowable under applicable state law or licensing authorities for the state in which the beneficiary is located at the time of the telemedicine appointment. A physician may bill DEEOIC for services rendered via telemedicine, using standard form OWCP-1500 or electronically using options available through DEEOIC's central bill processor.

A physician may determine, in the exercise of their professional medical judgment, that to best meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the telemedicine appointment requires a medical professional on site with the beneficiary in their home. In these circumstances, the physician may have a Registered Nurse, Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant present with the beneficiary during the physician's telemedicine appointment. This will not require pre-authorization. If other appropriate medical professionals participate in the telemedicine appointment, they may bill using non-telemedicine billing codes appropriate to their visit if not at the beneficiary's home for another authorized, billable service.

These telemedicine allowances do not supersede in-person physician medical examination requirements, when required by law or regulation.

RACHEL D. POND  
Director, Division of Energy Employees  
Occupational Illness Compensation