

# NCIOM - Task Force on Mental Health & Substance Abuse

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## TELEMEDICINE & TELEPSYCHIATRY COVERAGE NEEDS

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# Goals for Today

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- **Briefly review current policy concept**
- **Discuss plans & process for policy revision**
- **Understand current use of telepsychiatry in MCOs across NC**
- **Understand perceived gaps in service**
- **Briefly review regulatory framework**

# Current policy concept

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- The policy is structured around a practitioner's identifying a patient's need for a higher level of knowledge/skill and calling on another practitioner with the needed knowledge/skills.
- This process in American health care is called a "request or referral for consultation."
- National CPT rules for consultations and use of consultation or Evaluation and Management codes apply. Treatment and f/u are options on the part of the consultant.

# Plans for policy revision

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- **Setting of Medicaid programs across the US**
- **Focus on evidence base**
  - **National Medicaid Evidence Based Decisions collaborative run by Oregon Health Sciences University**
  - **Other literature review**
- **Focus on access**
- **Focus on quality of care**

# Process for policy revision

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- DMA policy process is per legislation and detailed on DMA website.
- Stakeholder input
- Research
- Policy development
- NC Physician Advisory Group review
- Fiscal analysis
- External postings

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# **Current use of telepsychiatry in MCOs across NC**

## **DISCUSSION**

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# Perceived gaps in service

## DISCUSSION

# Regulatory framework – usual rules, plus

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- Your licensing body, most pertinent the NC Medical Board's policy on Telemedicine
  - <http://www.ncmedboard.org/resources-information/professional-resources/laws-rules-position-statements/position-statements/telemedicine>
- HIPAA, etc
- CPT coding
- Encrypted real-time interactive audio and video communication with the consulting provider
- Standard DMA/DHHS language



# Telemedicine & Telepsychiatry

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- **7.0 Additional Requirements**

- **7.1 Compliance**

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and

b. All DMA's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, its divisions or its fiscal agent.

# Telemedicine & Telepsychiatry

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- Policy 1H, Telemedicine and Telepsychiatry  
<http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dma/mp/1H.pdf>
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