

## SUTS INFORMATION BULLETIN

No: 2020-6

Data: July 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Clarification of telehealth services under DMC-ODS

1. Telehealth services have been billable to Medi-Cal under DMC-ODS rules since the inception of the waiver. A special billing code is not required to bill DMC-ODS outpatient services.
2. Telehealth is a **delivery method**, such as face-to-face. It is not a place of service under DMC-ODS.
3. Telehealth can be used to provide individual, group counseling and case management.
4. Due to COVID Shelter-in-place conditions, DHCS permits the initial assessment as well as subsequent outpatient sessions to be conducted via telehealth.
5. Both licensed and non-licensed staff can provide telehealth if the service fall within their scope of practice
6. The **same documentation standards** used for a face-to-face sessions apply to telehealth services.
  - a. If verbal consent for telehealth is obtained from a client, it should be noted in the client chart.
  - b. Sign-in sheets are required for group telehealth sessions. The same information should be gathered for group telehealth sessions. This requirement has not been waived.
    - i. Clients can sign in via the chat box by entering their name
    - ii. Clinicians may choose to call 'roll' and document names on a sheet with the appropriate identifiers for the session