

# SUTS INFORMATION BULLETIN

No: 2020-3

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## SUBJECT: Reimbursement for Telehealth

Substance use treatment providers have had the option to bill for telehealth since June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 when Santa Clara County SUTS began participating in the 'Medi-Cal Waiver' also known as the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). The language from SUTS contract from the state is reproduced below. The example provided is for outpatient services.

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### Outpatient Services (ASAM Level 1.0) Example

Outpatient services consist of up to nine hours per week of medically necessary services for adults and less than six hours per week of services for adolescents.

Contractor shall ensure that its providers will offer ASAM Level 1 services including: assessment, treatment planning; individual and group counseling; family therapy; patient education; medication services; collateral services; crisis intervention services; and discharge planning and coordination.

**Services may be provided in-person, by telephone, or by telehealth, and in any appropriate setting in the community.**

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Source: SUTS Contract with DHCS (DMC-ODS) AOI Exhibit A – Section III – Program Specifications – Subsection O.

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Providers can bill for **any** outpatient service -individual counseling, group counseling and case management – performed via telehealth using a HIPAA compliant platform.

Telehealth is **method of service delivery** such as face-to-face, telephone, etc. and should be coded appropriately for reimbursement.

**Please see the attached DHCS FAQ for more information, specifically the section entitled - Behavioral Health Services via Telephone & Telehealth.**