

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 24

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to reimbursement under the state Medicaid program for
3 certain health care services provided through telemedicine.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 531.0217, Government
6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 531.0217. REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL
8 CONSULTATIONS AND SERVICES.

9 SECTION 2. Section 531.0217, Government Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

11 (c-1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
12 the commission may provide for reimbursement under the Medicaid
13 program for a telemedicine medical service provided by a physician
14 who is assessing and evaluating the patient from a distant site if:

15 (1) an advanced practice nurse or physician assistant
16 acting under the delegation and supervision of that physician is
17 present with the patient at the time the service is provided;

18 (2) the nature of the service is follow-up treatment
19 or care under a treatment plan previously established for the
20 patient by the physician following a diagnosis of a medical
21 condition, illness, or injury made after an in-person consultation
22 between the patient and the physician; and

23 (3) the medical condition, illness, or injury for
24 which the patient is receiving the service is not likely, within a

1 reasonable degree of medical certainty, to undergo material
2 deterioration within the 30-day period following the date of the
3 service.

4 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
5 a state agency determines that a waiver or other authorization from
6 a federal agency is necessary for implementation, the agency
7 affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization
8 and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or
9 authorization is granted.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.