

AN ACT

relating to health benefit coverage provided by certain health benefit plans for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1455.001, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (2-a) to read as follows:

(2-a) "Platform" means the technology, system, software, application, modality, or other method through which a health professional remotely interfaces with a patient when providing a health care service or procedure as a telemedicine medical service or telehealth service.

SECTION 2. Section 1455.004, Insurance Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (d) to read as follows:

(a) A health benefit plan:

(1) must provide coverage for a covered health care service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted health professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical service or telehealth service on the same basis and to the same extent that the plan provides coverage for the service or procedure in an in-person setting; and

(2) may not:

(A) exclude from coverage a covered health care

1 service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted health
2 professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical service
3 or a telehealth service solely because the covered health care
4 service or procedure is not provided through an in-person
5 consultation; and

6 (B) subject to Subsection (c), limit, deny, or
7 reduce coverage for a covered health care service or procedure
8 delivered as a telemedicine medical service or telehealth service
9 based on the health professional's choice of platform for
10 delivering the service or procedure.

11 (b-1) Subsection (b) does not authorize a health benefit
12 plan to charge a separate deductible that applies only to a covered
13 health care service or procedure delivered as a telemedicine
14 medical service or telehealth service.

15 (d) A health benefit plan may not impose an annual or
16 lifetime maximum on coverage for covered health care services or
17 procedures delivered as telemedicine medical services or
18 telehealth services other than the annual or lifetime maximum, if
19 any, that applies in the aggregate to all items and services and
20 procedures covered under the plan.

21 SECTION 3. The changes to Section 1455.004, Insurance Code,
22 as amended by this Act, apply only to a health benefit plan
23 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1,
24 2020. A health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or
25 renewed before January 1, 2020, is governed by the law as it existed
26 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
27 continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3345 was passed by the House on May 8, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3345 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor