



COVID-19 Update, 3\25

March 25, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 3\25, from ADH Website:

ADH has created a dashboard of statistics, along with an interactive map. It will be updated four times a day, and you can [view the site here](#).

- Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Arkansas - 280
- Deaths from COVID-19 - 2, both from Central Arkansas
- Recovered COVID-19 Patients - 11
- COVID-19 Patients in the Hospital - 12
- COVID-19 Patients on Ventilators - 4
- COVID-19 in nursing homes - 41

AFMC Telemedicine Webinar

Reduce the impact of COVID-19 on your practice with Telehealth: A Panel Discussion
Friday, March 27
12:30 p.m.

The COVID-19 health crisis is driving us to change the way we practice medicine in Arkansas. In recent days, Governor Hutchinson released an executive order encouraging treatment and communication by telehealth technology. Arkansas Medicaid, Medicare and Arkansas Blue Cross have released memoranda providing guidance on telemedicine requirements for physicians and certain behavioral health providers during the current public health emergency. The HHS Office of Civil Right (OCR) has also announced relaxed enforcement on remote telehealth technologies. Telehealth provides you with an option to care for your patients, while eliminating the need for travel.

Join us for an interactive discussion regarding the use of telehealth with a panel of Arkansas physicians, all of whom successfully use telehealth to deliver health care. Panel members will share their experiences and best practices for using telehealth technology.

Event address for attendees:

<https://afmc.webex.com/afmc/onstage/g.php?MTID=e74d8f66a3549d13878b2c202c27297f2>

Audio conference:

+1-415-655-0001

Access code: 660 691 945

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020

Time: 12:30 p.m. Central

Update on COVID-19 Coverage Provisions for Telephone-Only Medical Services

The major carriers in Arkansas have stepped up to help physicians provide needed care for their patients in a safe environment (home). Below are the coverage provisions for each and what they are covering. For more detailed

information, refer to your “provider” news or other links from each carrier.

Medicaid

- E/M Visits covered using telemedicine including telephone only.
- Use the appropriate CPT code with a GT modifier and a POS 02.
- Dates of Service on or after March 18th and for at least 60 days.
- Virtual Check-ins covered using G2012; effective April 1 for dates of service on or after 3/18/20.

ABCBS

- E/M Visits covered using telemedicine including telephone only.
- Use appropriate CPT code with GT or 95 modifier and POS 02.
- Retroactive to 3/16/20 and going at least until 5/15/20.
- Telephonic Consultations also covered for CPT codes 99441 (5-10 minutes, 99442 (11-20 minutes), and 99443 (21-30 minutes).
- Copays, coinsurance and deductibles waived for all telemedicine services.

Ambetter/Qualchoice

- E/M Visits covered using telemedicine including telephone only.
- Use appropriate CPT code with a POS 02.
- Copays, coinsurance, and deductibles waived for all telemedicine services.

United

Currently only allows “telephone-only” for virtual check-in. Traditional telemedicine modalities continue to be covered.

Medicare

Only virtual check-ins are allowed. Medicare has also suspended originating site rules now allowing the patient’s home to be recognized. Traditional telemedicine modalities continue to be covered.

AMS Signs Congressional Letter

AMS has joined with other state medical societies and national physician groups to send a letter to Congressional leadership in Washington D.C. The letter officially requests that stimulus legislation support and sustain physicians and their practices during this unprecedented national emergency.

[Click here to read the entire letter.](#)

AMA Issues Special Coding Advice for COVID-19

New guidance from the AMA provides special coding advice during the COVID-19 public health emergency. One resource outlines coding scenarios designed to help health care professionals apply best coding practices.

[Check the AMA COVID-19 resource center to stay up to date and for additional resources.](#)

Clinic Signs in Spanish and Marshallese

We have translated our clinic signs to help communicate with your Spanish and Marshallese patients. To download, click on the links below.

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Marshallese](#)

Got Questions? Let Us Help.

The Arkansas Medical Society is here to serve our physician members and their medical teams. On our website, we have a place that you can send us questions or share what you're experiencing. Visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19) and click on the Got Questions box. We will respond to your question as soon as possible. Thank you for your hard work and together we will make it through this crisis.

For more AMS COVID-19 Resources, visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19).