

SUBJECT: Telehealth/Telemedicine Training for Family Medicine Residents

SUBMITTED BY: Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society on behalf of the ACOFP Resident Council

REFERRED TO: 2021 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 16

- 1 WHEREAS, healthcare providers, including family physicians, can maintain continuity of  
2 care and deliver quality acute, chronic, primary and specialty services through the use of  
3 telehealth/telemedicine (hereafter “telemedicine”); and<sup>1</sup>  
4
- 5 WHEREAS, telemedicine can greatly decrease or eliminate the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus  
6 between healthcare personnel and patients; and<sup>1</sup>  
7
- 8 WHEREAS, telemedicine can mitigate health care challenges, including—but not limited to disparities in  
9 health care access, personnel shortages in underserved areas and misallocation of resources to certain  
10 geographical locations; and<sup>2</sup>  
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- 12 WHEREAS, telemedicine may continue to become increasingly prevalent after the 2020 COVID-19  
13 pandemic subsides with projections that 20–30% of routine visits will be conducted virtually; and<sup>3</sup>  
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- 15 WHEREAS, providers utilizing telemedicine should be versed in its applicable regulations,  
16 compliance requirements and direct costs; and<sup>3</sup>  
17
- 18 WHEREAS, the American Council for Graduate Medical Education  
19 allows resident physicians to utilize telemedicine to care for patients affected by the  
20 pandemic; now, therefore be it <sup>4</sup>  
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- 22 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians(ACOFP) encourages all family  
23 medicine residency programs to educate residents about the intricacies of managing patients through the  
24 use of telemedicine; and, be it further  
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- 26 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP encourages the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)  
27 Family Medicine Review Committee to allow telemedicine patient encounters to count toward the 1650  
28 total billable in-person encounters set forth under the program requirements.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 10, 2021

References:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/telehealth.html>
2. <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/steps-forward/module/2702689>
3. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/joeharpaz/2020/05/04/5-reasons-why-telehealth-here-to-stay-covid19/#76cf218b53fb>
4. <https://www.acgme.org/Newsroom/Blog/Details/ArticleID/10125/ACGME-Response-to-COVID-19-Clarification-regarding-Telemedicine-and-ACGME-Surveys>