



Permanently Expand Medicare Telehealth Coverage for Diabetes Care

During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) temporarily expanded coverage for services provided via telehealth, including diabetes self-management training (DSMT), to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries could continue to access care from their homes while minimizing exposure. In 2022, Congress gave CMS the authority to further extend many of these telehealth waivers through 2024. With over 3 years of data to inform the decision, it is now time to make these temporary telehealth flexibilities permanent.

ADCES has identified the following long-term telehealth priorities that are contained within the **CONNECT for Health Act**, which takes important steps to make these changes permanent and address these priorities:

- Remove geographic and originating site requirements to allow beneficiaries to continue to access telehealth services from their homes.
- Expand telehealth in Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers.
- Allow CMS to designate appropriate services to be provided in an audio-only format.

ADCES also has additional telehealth priorities that we are working to have included in other legislation or during committee markup:

- Extend the temporary CMS telehealth flexibilities that allow accredited and certified DSMT programs to furnish and bill for DSMT services provided via telehealth by the full care team including registered nurses, pharmacists, and registered dietitians.
- Make permanent the PHE flexibilities offered to Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) suppliers by expanding the use of virtual sessions.
- Implement policies that reduce telehealth disparities. Telehealth can be unavailable for those without broadband access or cellphone minutes. Consider approaches to make digital care more accessible for all beneficiaries.

To cosponsor the **CONNECT for Health Act** (once reintroduced in the 118th Congress), contact Gabrielle Schechter (gabrielle_schechter@schatz.senate.gov).

To discuss opportunities for your office to help address **ADCES' additional telehealth priorities**, please email ADCES Director of Advocacy Hannah Martin (hmartin@adces.org).