

# Telehealth State/ Federal Updates

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WashingtonState  
**Telehealth** Collaborative

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- On November 2, 2021, CMS issued a [final rule](#) for the 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which includes expanding telehealth use.
  - CMS added audio-only to the approved list of interactive telecommunications systems when used for diagnosing, evaluating, or treating mental health disorder patients at home.
  - Any mental health telehealth services are to be preceded by an in-person service at least 6 months before the telehealth service.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Xavier Becerra has [extended the public health emergency](#) (PHE) for another 90 days, effective October 18, 2021
  - This means that telehealth flexibilities, waivers, and other Medicare and Medicaid policies in place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic will remain in effect through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Biden Administration provides nearly \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan funds to modernize health centers and support underserved communities.
  - Health centers can use this funding for capital improvements and purchase new equipment, including telehealth technology.
  - New York Times article [here](#).
  - Press release [here](#).
- The Washington State Broadband Office has funds available to assist families with internet costs with their [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#).
  - More details on this benefit and how to apply are located [here](#).