

# Telehealth State/ Federal Updates

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WashingtonState  
**Telehealth** Collaborative

# Federal Updates

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- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a [temporary rule](#) that further extends the ability to prescribe controlled substances via telemedicine without an in-person visit **through December 31, 2024**.
  - Will extend the full set of telemedicine flexibilities adopted during the COVID-19 public health emergency, including any practitioner-patient telemedicine relationships that have been or will be established up to December 31, 2024.
  - Effective November 11, 2023
  - Anticipated final rule in Fall 2024
- [CMS 2024 Physician Fee Schedule's final rule](#) indicates that **through December 31, 2024**, CMS will continue to permit the distant site practitioner to use their currently enrolled practice location instead of their home address when providing telehealth services from their home.

# Telemedicine Research Studies

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- The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) released an [article](#) on the strong association between the level of telemedicine use and outpatient clinicians' time in the electronic health record as well as outside of patient scheduled hours.
  - There was no increase in electronic messages received from patients
  - Health systems and policy makers may need to alter productivity expectations and reimbursement policies
- Annals of Internal Medicine published an [article](#) to compare treatment and follow-up visits between primary care telemedicine (audio and video) and in-person office visits
  - In-person return visits were somewhat higher after telemedicine compared with in-person primary care visits, but varied by specific clinical condition
  - The number of prescriptions, lab tests and radiological tests were all significantly lower after telemedicine and audio-only telemedicine visits