



AHCCCS approves EPSDT visits conducted via Telehealth

May 13, 2020

In alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations regarding well-visits, AHCCCS is allowing providers to perform EPSDT visits via Telehealth.

For details on approved telehealth services and billing guidance, please reference the AHCCCS COVID-19 FAQs on the AHCCCS website:

<https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html>

Immunizing the youngest children continues to be a top priority in the context of well-child care. It is important to remember to vaccinate children who have an EPSDT visit performed by Telehealth.

AAP developed recommendations for pediatric providers to address well child visits and the provision of immunizations. The guidance from AAP includes considering modifications to the structure of your clinic schedule and physical space. Recommendations include:

- Conduct well visits for newborns, and for infants and younger children who require immunizations.
- Reschedule well visits for those in middle childhood and adolescence not needing immunizations to a later date.
- Limit well visits to early morning while reserving the remainder of the day for sick visits.
- Dedicate specific rooms for sick visits and well visits. For offices with multiple sites, consider using one office location to see well visits (staffed by those in higher risk categories).
- Increase telehealth services.

When using telehealth services to perform EPSDT visits consider implementing a “drive through” immunization process for children who require immunizations.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also developed guidance that is relevant to the way practices approach caring for children:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The AAP established an email box for questions and guidance: COVID-19@aap.org.

Thank you!

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