

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the signatories below, we thank you for your ongoing efforts to advance access to healthcare through telehealth. We write today with a sense of urgency, to request your leadership in mitigating the negative impacts on Medicare beneficiaries as a result of the government shutdown and related lapse in Medicare telehealth flexibilities. Medicare beneficiaries should be able to access the same telehealth services they have relied on for five years, and this requires a prompt, retroactive extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities.

Telehealth access serves as a lifeline for Medicare beneficiaries across the country and helps address several barriers to care, such as inadequate transportation, long travel times, patient wait times and taking time off work. These problems are compounded for patients in rural and underserved areas. Telehealth access ensures all patients can receive quality care in their home.

While we greatly appreciate that Medicare telehealth flexibilities have continually been extended, tying the flexibilities to the larger government funding debate is not without consequence. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released some guidance in light of the lapse, but there is still a high level of uncertainty for patients and providers. CMS suggests that providers may want to evaluate providing beneficiaries with an advance notice of non-coverage, along with potentially holding claims, if they choose to continue to offer telehealth services. CMS does not provide assurances that providers will eventually be reimbursed for these services should Congress reinstate the flexibilities, nor are there assurances that patients will not be responsible for the full cost of an appointment during the lapse.

Further, leading up to the September 30 deadline, many patients were forced to cancel their telehealth appointments or make long-distance travel arrangements to visit their provider in-person. Long-term virtual rehabilitation programs, such as programs for cardiac, pulmonary, and musculoskeletal disease, were cut short due to the uncertainty of reimbursement. Medicare beneficiaries and providers should not have to go through this uncertainty every few months.

Congress must retroactively reinstate the expired Medicare telehealth flexibilities for as long as possible and should do so expeditiously.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Abbott
AdventHealth
agilon health Physician Network
Alliance for Connected Care
Amazon
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Academy of Physician Associates
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
American Heart Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Telemedicine Association
American Urogynecologic Society
Ascension
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
ATA Action
Bassett Healthcare Network
Carda Health
clinica siera vista, FQHC
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
Connected Health Initiative
Consumer Technology Association
CopilotIQ
Duke Health
Eagle Telemedicine
Elevare Law, LLC
EssilorLuxottica
Health Innovation Alliance
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Included Health, Inc.
Intermountain Health
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine
Understood Care
Kivo Health
Lifepoint Health
Loma Linda University Health

LT Telehealth/LocumTenens.com
MedStar Health
Omada Health, Inc.
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care
Philips North America
Re-architect Health LLC
RightMove Health
Stanford Health Care
Telehealth.org
Transcarent
Trinity Health
TruBridge
UF Health Proton Therapy Institute
University of Michigan Health
UW Health
Visana Health
Workit Health
XRHealth America Inc
XRHealth Inc