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# TELEHEALTH EQUITY & MEDICATION ABORTION CARE

**OVERVIEW & ADVOCACY GUIDE** 





Waxman

This advocacy guide is part of the EMAA Project's efforts to expand access to medication abortion care using telehealth and strengthen collaboration across communities to advocate for policies which improve equitable access to telehealth. We recognize that people should have access to all forms of abortion, including, but not limited to, medication abortion via telehealth, although our scope is focused on medication abortion care delivered using telehealth. In service of our work, we conducted a series of stakeholder interviews and released a survey to experts in the fields of telehealth, reproductive health, rights, and justice, and health equity. While this document is intended to be a useful foundational tool for advocates, there was no way to capture all the tremendous data gathered or all the data that exists on these topics. To our partners, interviewees, and survey participants, we extend our deepest thanks.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Dana Northcraft, Director of Innovation & Partnerships (dana.northcraft@emaaproject.org)

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### MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Access to telehealth and access to abortion are linked—in order for people to meaningfully have access to telehealth, they must have access to abortion using telehealth.
- Misinformation abounds about telehealth, medication abortion care, and the types of policies that advance equitable access to telehealth. Addressing information and knowledge gaps is a vital early step to arm advocates with tools to support policy change. This guide is intended to begin filling these gaps.
- Technology and telehealth show promise to advance access, but only if they are developed and implemented using principles that meaningfully center equity. Some of the most common barriers to adoption of telehealth include lack of broadband access, lack of patient access to information and devices, cultural competency, and literacy barriers.
- A lack of investment across the board is a significant barrier to equitable experience of telehealth for medication abortion care. This includes policy and financial disincentives from investing in abortion technology, and a lack of investment in training and infrastructure particularly for safety-net provision of medication abortion care via telehealth.
- Coverage is key. Medicaid coverage for abortion is limited by the Hyde amendment, which prohibits the use of federal funds on abortion care except under specific circumstances, although some states do pay for abortion services using state Medicaid funds. Eliminating the Hyde amendment and expanding coverage for abortion care is a fundamental step towards advancing equity.
- Reimbursement for medication abortion care is complicated, but it is tremendously impactful for advancing individual access. Complex structures that limit Medicaid reimbursement can make these services prohibitive or difficult for safety-net providers, limiting access to people who already experience intersecting barriers to care.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As highlighted above, this guide is intended to support advocates with a range of interests and expertise. Based on your own background, certain sections may be more relevant than others—for example, if you are an expert in abortion policy but would like to learn more about telehealth, then we recommend going to the telehealth sections on pages 5 and 7. If you are a telehealth expert hoping to learn more about abortion, please see pages 6 and 7. At the bottom of this guide, we also include a list of resources and a glossary which could be of use to all readers.

### **A NOTE ON EQUITY**

Equitable care recognizes that every person has unique individual needs that must be satisfied to reach an equal outcome. Equity in health care, or "health equity" is achieved when all people are able to reach their full health potential regardless of factors including race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, citizenship status, etc.<sup>1</sup> Advocates have long touted telehealth as a potential tool used to help achieve health equity, especially given the opportunity to support providers reaching patients who previously would be unable to receive treatment in an in-person setting. That promise has not yet been met. Operational considerations including internet access, technological ability, language barriers, physical barriers, and state policy limitations intersect with other social and systemic injustices related to race, income, and gender as primary factors to consider to ensure that telehealth does not further exacerbate existing inequities in health care.<sup>2,3,4</sup> As advocates look to build the case for policies which expand telehealth access, centering equity is critical-and that must include equitable access to medication abortion care.

### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

For some, health care has never been easier to access: a cell phone or laptop can be an access point to a trusted medical provider, and many small or large worries can be easily resolved through chatbot exchanges or virtual visits. However, as noted above, the promise of increased access *for everyone* using technology and telehealth has not yet been met.

As is so often the case, these reflections are similarly true as they pertain to access to abortion. Abortion "access" in the United States in 2022 is complicated—it is experienced (or not) based on an intersection of cobbled together state laws, a vastly underfunded safety net, and intersecting social, political, and systemic barriers to physical access. With that said, it can be no surprise that despite changing federal policies (which would in theory accommodate access to abortion using telehealth), additional work is needed to ensure that the promise of telehealth is equitably experienced. Due in part to pervasive societal injustices that systemically impede people of color's comprehensive health education, access to contraception, access to primary care, and more, they are more likely to seek an abortion than their white counterparts. In 2019 (prior to the pandemic and the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Supreme Court decision) abortion rates were 3.6 times higher among Black women compared to white women.<sup>5</sup> Even in states where abortion services are not banned, communities who often experience the most barriers to care such as people of color, those struggling to make ends meet, and people who identify as LGBTQ+ may experience less equitable access to telehealth care.

Access to telehealth and access to abortion are linked—in order for telehealth to be truly equitable, people must have access to abortion using telehealth. Given the changes to health care delivery in the past several years, this resource was conceived of as an opportunity to provide foundational information about the ways that telehealth policy and abortion policy can be used to improve equity, with definitions and recommendations for ways to use policy levers to improve access. Since both abortion and telehealth policy are heavily state driven, this guide will primarily focus on state policy. Our goal is to assist advocates who work on telehealth, reproductive rights, and/or equity to better understand these synergies, and to provide examples of how to advocate for policies that will deepen equitable access to telehealth for medication abortion care.

#### So, what is telehealth?

With so much going on over these past several years, many of us could be forgiven for not having the bandwidth to understand the nuances of the evolution of telehealth and technology in health care, and the many challenges they bring.

Telehealth encompasses the broad range of ways a patient receives health services from a distance using a variety of devices such as a computer, phone, or tablet from a provider. Certain state policies impact the specifics of telehealth utilization, including whether care can be delivered across state lines, or by different types of providers including physicians, nurses, and psychologists.<sup>6</sup> Normally telehealth services require limited follow up and modalities fall into four categories: live video or audio-only calls (synchronous care), asynchronous care (also called store-and-forward), remote patient monitoring, and mobile health.

While not all care can be delivered via telehealth, and full expansion will not solve all inequities inherent in our healthcare system, many forms of care, including conducting virtual visits, prescribing medications, and remotely monitoring patients health status' can tremendously improve convenience and access to care for patients. As some may be surprised to learn: medication abortion care falls into the above categories, making its delivery one of the most natural fits for equitable telehealth services. See below for more details.

Although public awareness and usage of telehealth has dramatically risen in the past few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this type of service has actually been used by health professionals for decades, with roots in innovation and equitable access.

#### A brief history of telehealth

As an outgrowth of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) program, in the 1970s, the federal government invested in telemedicine research and development particularly to help people in rural areas who faced geographic barriers to access.<sup>7</sup> Some of those geographic barriers include having to travel longer distances to reach care and less public transportation than in urban areas.<sup>8</sup> With telehealth, providers were able to leverage the technology that was developed for space travel to remotely monitor the health of people in hard-toreach areas. Patients were able to reach providers via video calls and audio calls to assess their needs and provide health services without the logistical hassles of finding transportation and providers with the resources and time available to help them. Because of these outcomes, telehealth was and still is really intended to be used to address inequities in health care delivery by addressing certain barriers which make health care harder to attain for communities experiencing intersecting injustices.

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an exponential surge in telehealth usage. As a result of social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and with the goals of supporting communities experiencing barriers to care due to the pandemic, many health providers turned to delivering their services remotely, resulting from and in federal and state policy changes. In 2020, Medicare suspended their restrictions on the types of telehealth services that it covered, and states expanded telehealth access through licensing and payment changes.<sup>9,10,11</sup> The pandemic pushed many health care consumers and patients to better understand telehealth, with increased patient and provider willingness to use it and policy changes that led to greater access and reimbursement. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth usage has stabilized at levels that are 30 times higher than before the pandemic.<sup>12</sup> Telehealth utilization once again illustrates that as people struggle to find care, access is crucial to centering equity and shows that when it is important enough to us, it can happen quickly.

# A brief history of medication abortion care

Medication abortion care is an abortion method that uses a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved regimen combination (mifepristone and misoprostol) to terminate a pregnancy and can be completed in a setting of the patient's choosing. Robust research has shown that this regimen is extremely safe and effective, including via telehealth.<sup>13</sup> Mifepristone, which is the first medication that is taken in the regimen, was first approved by the FDA in 2000. Misoprostol, the second medication that is taken about 24–48 hours after Mifepristone, was initially approved in the late 1980s.<sup>14,15</sup>

Medication abortion care now accounts for more than half of the abortions in the United States.<sup>16</sup> Although the medication abortion care regimen has been approved by the FDA for more than 20 years, and adopted by many providers, the delivery of medication abortion care remains challenging. The FDA recently announced an update to federal requirements on mifepristone, to allow mail-order and in-person pharmacy distribution.<sup>17</sup> This change will allow for direct-to patient or hybrid models of telehealth.

Medically unnecessary and unscientific restrictions at the state level will continue to present barriers to patients, despite the proven safety and efficacy of telehealth for medication abortion care.<sup>18</sup> Some of these restrictions are based on in-person distribution requirements thereby preventing providers from administering medication abortions via telehealth.

The recent *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* Supreme Court decision can only further exacerbate the impact of these restrictions, as states are now able to enact broad abortion bans. Approximately half of all U.S. states are anticipated to enact bans on abortion or gestational limits—as of September 1, 2022, 17 states have enacted some form of ban.<sup>19</sup> Other states which do not have restrictions based on gestational limits or fetal viability, may still have state laws prohibiting state funds from being used to cover an abortion.<sup>20</sup> This is reflective of how abortion policy often diverges from other types of care which lend themselves to telehealth—unscientific and medically unnecessary requirements get in the way of health care delivery and access, adding another layer of complication to the equitable experience of telehealth.

Similar to the way telehealth generally was developed, telehealth for medication abortion care was initiated by providers to address staffing shortages and access challenges in rural areas. In many states, especially states where there are significant restrictions and lack of resources or investment, staff and provider shortages create insurmountable barriers. With so many challenges and such complex reimbursement, developing the tools to understand how to implement telehealth for medication abortion care can be tremendously difficult. Telehealth was conceived of as an opportunity to bring providers to patients in different states without physically moving them, to increase access while also saving patient costs. Actualizing these priorities depends on state provider restrictions and licensure.

### HOW DOES CENTERING EQUITY IMPROVE ACCESS TO TELEHEALTH AND MEDICATION ABORTION CARE?

Equity-centered and effective telehealth policy has potential promise for individuals who seek healthcare, including abortion, by:

- Reducing logistical barriers including travel, childcare, and taking time off from work,
- Saving patient costs while demonstrating similar clinical outcomes as in-person visits,<sup>21</sup>
- Utilizing non-MD clinicians such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners to provide care via telehealth,
- Leveraging multiple modalities including chat-only and audio features to reduce technology barriers and increase patient comfort,
- Removing friction that people experience in the health care system, including clinic protesters and lack of provider choice,
- Creating more opportunities for language inclusivity and closed captioning, and

• Growing investments in the field to advance the current telehealth and abortion care infrastructure.

As medication abortion care becomes an increasingly common method of abortion, and especially as the landscape for access to surgical abortion evolves following the recent Supreme Court decision undermining the right to abortion, the ability to provide abortion care virtually is even more important to improve equity and access.

### WHAT ARE BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO USING TELEHEALTH TO ADVANCE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE, INCLUDING MEDICATION ABORTION CARE?

Political and structural barriers have affected the operationalization of telehealth achieving its promise writ large, especially as it pertains to abortion. The impact of the Dobbs decision undermining the right to abortion cannot be understated, and yet it is worth noting that even prior to the decision, abortion was never accessible for many people due to structural inequities and systemic racism exacerbated by restrictive policies. The Dobbs decision, resulting abortion bans, and other medication abortionspecific bans are the most obvious and critical barriers to improving the accessibility of abortion using telehealth.<sup>22</sup> One fundamental misconception is that telehealth access policy differs from telehealth abortion policy. This is based on a false perception that abortion policy is separate from, or unrelated to, telehealth policy, as opposed to a fundamental public health component of equitable telehealth access. Recent data shows that states with abortion bans tend to have higher uninsured rates, higher child poverty rates, and higher shares of people living in maternity care deserts compared to states without bans.<sup>23</sup> However, the following chart reflects some key challenges and opportunities to advance equitycentered policies that impact access to abortion using telehealth.

#### BARRIERS

Medically unnecessary abortion restrictions

- These show up in many ways: as bans on the entire service, criminalization of providers delivering the service, bans tied to specific dates, medication abortion bans, or requirements for waiting periods, medically unnecessary ultrasounds, or other testing.

**Provider shortages** – Addressing rural and specialist provider shortages was one of the primary goals of the adoption of telehealth. These concerns are even more acute in the abortion setting, where a unique confluence of safety concerns, reimbursement issues, and training limitations create significant shortages.

**Technology and access challenges** – Digital access challenges, including lack of access to or knowledge of broadband, cell signal, and technology, and failure to invest in access to these services for many urban and rural communities. This "digital divide" may encompass gaps experienced between demographics or geographical regions.

**Knowledge gaps** – Despite significant research and relevant access points, many patients and some providers are still unfamiliar with the safety and efficacy of telehealth, especially telehealth for medication abortion. The use of telehealth for medication abortion delivery increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when providers (and patients!) had many other priorities, and often limited bandwidth to understand how to adopt and respond to evolving laws.

#### ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS



Significant work exists in the states to fight back against abortion bans. Lend your energy and voice to existing efforts to fight harmful and unscientific bans. For too long this work has been siloed from other

forms of health care advocacy; entrenching advocates across industries and expertise into the conversation around abortion access and bans is crucial.



No one recommendation could address the intersecting factors which result in abortion provider shortages. Expanding access to telehealth and ensuring ease in provider licensure are key tools to addressing these

shortages. Other options include opposing state limitations on teaching abortion services at public universities and advocating for policies which reduce abortion restrictions and limitations on abortion training.



Many states have implemented broadband education and access campaigns, to varying degrees of success. Working with state advocates and policymakers to ensure that providers of all types of services can

access relevant trainings and funding streams. Additionally, partnering with community leaders who focus on abortion and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health service access will ensure that advocates with deep understanding of the abortion access ecosystem can help develop relevant materials and trainings for patients.



Consider advocacy campaigns to ensure that policymakers, advocates, and the public are armed with the most up to date materials highlighting the safety and efficacy of telehealth generally, including medication abortion via telehealth.

#### BARRIERS

Data accessibility – While researchers have compiled data on challenges related to the equitable delivery and experience of telehealth and abortion access, these studies can be difficult to translate to practice. To create meaningful change based in scientific principles, data must be accessible to advocates. In addition to making sure data exists, data accessibility also addresses other barriers such as comprehension and paywalls. Accessibility is further complicated by state abortion bans and a lack of funding for abortion research.

**Insufficient investment** – Funding and resources are needed at the intersection of telehealth and abortion care at all levels. For investors, complex state laws and insufficient knowledge of future financial returns make investment seem unattractive despite the significant impact. For abortion providers who are already stretched incredibly thin, lack of bandwidth and knowledge makes investing in new platforms untenable, although this problem could be mitigated by the initiation of state funding streams for telehealth adoption.

**Data privacy** – Given the increased criminalization of abortion and other sexual and reproductive health services, robust privacy protections are critical to ensure that a patient's experience of telehealth cannot be used against them in a court of law.

Language access – Ensuring that platforms are inclusive to non-English speakers or speakers with limited English proficiency is vital to the equitable experience of telehealth, and especially as it pertains to abortion. Requiring translators or interpreters to a form of care which may already include unnecessary stigma and bias creates new challenges and potentially insurmountable barriers.

#### ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS



Researchers and community organizations can collaborate to develop and share digestible materials about equitable delivery and experience of abortion using telehealth.



States can support the equitable delivery of telehealth services by investing in telehealth infrastructure grants for providers with significant experience in the provision of care to communities experiencing

disproportionate barriers to care. These funding streams should require high standards of care delivery and could be an opportunity for states to model best practices in the provision of services using telehealth.



Work across coalitions to support protections for abortion providers to all patients, including patients from states which have criminalized abortions. Educate policymakers on the risks at the intersection of

health technology, data privacy, and abortion access.



Consider whether any existing state funding for telehealth infrastructure is tied to language access. Where possible and appropriate, advocate for state investment in telehealth and technology education which is tied to expanded language access.

#### BARRIERS

**Coverage** – This is one of the most fundamental components to equity-centered access. With less than fifty percent of births covered by Medicaid, ensuring equitable policies for abortion coverage is critical to ensuring that abortion access is equitably experienced. The most significant barrier to coverage equity is the Hyde amendment, which bans using federal funds to cover most abortions. There are key telehealth-related components to coverage as well, including the modality (or type of service) which is covered by Medicaid, and which types of providers can deliver covered telehealth services.

#### Reimbursement – Ensuring adequate

reimbursement for telehealth services is a vital piece of the puzzle. Structural changes to the delivery of health care will have an outsized impact on already underfunded safety net providers of care, and abortion providers who service large geographic areas due to provider shortages. Ensuring that telehealth services are adequately reimbursed by all insurers, including public insurers, is critical to maintaining the abortion safety net.

Health Literacy – To effectively make appropriate decisions about telehealth care, patients and providers must be able to receive and understand health information. Health literacy may be impacted by a variety of factors, including appropriate written health materials, accurate interpretation of health information, and quality communication with health providers. Disparities may exist based on patient circumstances such as education level, age, disability, and poverty.

#### ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS



Advocate for the most comprehensive coverage of telehealth and abortion care services possible. This includes ensuring that your state has permanent Medicaid coverage of all relevant types of telehealth

services (audio-only, remote patient monitoring, etc.), and that your state Medicaid agency covers abortion services using state funds.

We also recommend advocating to your Member of Congress to pass the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act (the EACH Act, or S.1021/H.R. 2234), which would ensure coverage for abortion services across insurance types.



Ensure that conversations related to telehealth reimbursement do not further stigmatize abortion services by partnering with local and state medical advocates, and telehealth advocates.



Advocate to make culturally competent telehealth materials and information available in accessible formats. This could mean materials in different languages, information delivered verbally, and assistance in using and understanding digital tools.

### **ADVOCACY CHECKLIST & RESOURCES**

As you continue or begin advocacy related to equitable access to telehealth, including for medication abortion care, here are some questions to consider to ensure equitable access to care:

#### • ABORTION BANS

- Does your state currently have any medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion?
- □ Are people seeking abortion in your state able to obtain accurate information on abortion access and efficacy?
- □ Are people seeking abortion in your state able to find and understand their legal rights and protections?

#### • COVERAGE

- □ What types of telehealth services are covered by your state Medicaid program? By private insurers? Are audio-only services covered or does the state require live video for reimbursement?24 Can a patient-provider relationship be established using telehealth or are there medically unnecessary in-person requirements?
- □ Are Medicaid policies permanent or connected to the COVID-19 public health emergency?
- Does your state Medicaid cover abortion using state funds? Does your state restrict private insurance coverage of abortion?
  - Does payment parity exist for telehealth services under both private and public plans, including for medication abortion care?
  - Are interpreters required and are their services reimbursable under public and private insurance plans?
  - Is the mailing of medications allowed in your state and the cost reimbursable by public and private insurance plans?
- Are major employers in your state including telehealth and abortion access in their internal policies and healthcare plans, including paid sick/family leave, emergency assistance, reimbursed travel/ childcare costs, etc.?

#### • LICENSURE

- Does your state allow for providers from other states to practice telehealth?
  - If so, are the licensure requirements burdensome? Does licensure depend on types of care that can be provided?
- Does your state allow for providers to dispense mifepristone without an in person visit, as per FDA guidelines?
- Does your state allow non-MD practitioners such as physician's assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe mifepristone?

#### • INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT

- □ Is your state investing in any infrastructure to support patients and safety net providers with telehealth services?
  - O If so, do these investments include any restrictions based on service delivery?

#### • TRAINING

- □ Is your state providing telehealth trainings to providers?
  - O If so, are these trainings available to and inclusive of abortion providers?
- □ Is your state providing public education on the uses and benefits of telehealth?
  - O If so, is there specific information available about telehealth care for abortion?

#### • LANGUAGE ACCESS

- Does your state have any informational abortion or telehealth resources available?
  - O If so, are they accessible in languages other than English?

#### • DATA PRIVACY

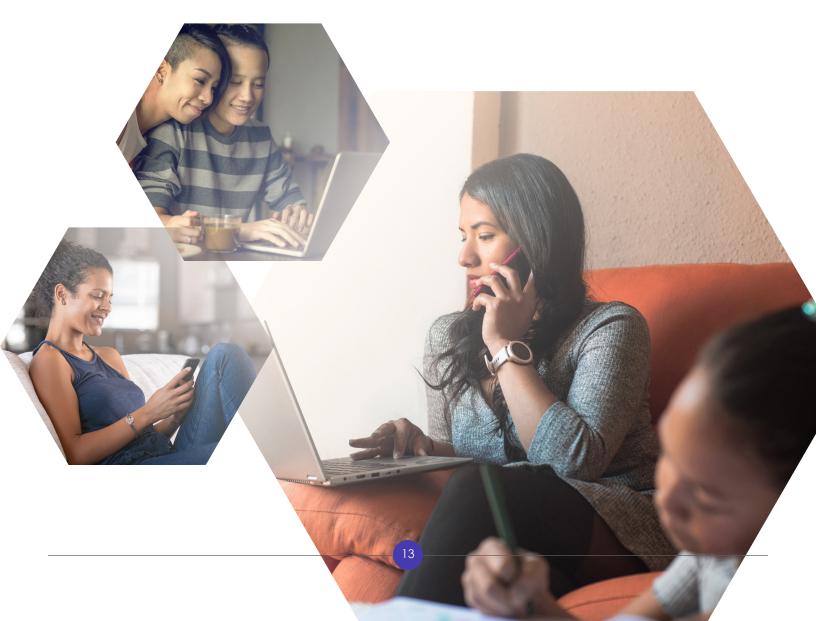
- Does your state have protections for providers delivering services which have been criminalized in other states?
- Does your state require providers collect sensitive patient information such as residence/location?
- Does your state invest in infrastructure and security for virtual data protection for providers?

#### • PARTNERSHIPS

- □ Are there medical societies or associations advocating for telehealth expansion in your state?
  - O If so, do they have a position on abortion restrictions to telehealth expansion?
- Are there reproductive health, rights, or justice organizations in your state advocating for increased abortion access?
  - O If so, do they have a position on telehealth expansion?

To learn or share more, here are resources that can be useful to advocates:

- American Telemedicine Association: Telehealth Basics
- Center for Connected Health Policy
- The EMAA Project: Improving Access to Telehealth for Medication Abortion Care
- University of California, San Francisco: Association of Travel Distance to Nearest Abortion Facility With Rates of Abortion
- Health and Human Services: Telehealth licensing requirements and interstate compacts
- Kaiser Family Foundation: Medication Abortion Via Telehealth: What You Need to Know About State Regulations
- Power to Decide: Telehealth and Income Survey
- National Public Radio: States With Toughest Abortion Laws Have Weakest Maternal Supports
- In Our Own Voice: Black Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda
- Liberate Abortion: Policy Strategies for States with Expanded Access to Abortion
- Telehealth Equity Coalition: Digital Health & Literacy Policy Outline



## GLOSSARY

	TELEHEALTH
TERM	DEFINITION
Asynchronous Communication	<ul> <li>A form of communication in which there is a delay between an initial message or question that is sent and when the response is received.</li> <li>This is also known as "Store and Forward" communication.</li> <li>This can be compared most closely to the practice of emailing someone and waiting for a response.</li> </ul>
Synchronous Communication	<ul> <li>Communication that is happening in real time, most commonly via video conferencing or phone calls</li> </ul>
Direct to Patient Services	• Care delivered from a provider to a patient at another location such as in the patient's home, office, or location of choice.
Site to Site	<ul> <li>Care delivered from a provider at one medical facility to a patient in a different medical facility</li> </ul>
Hybrid Telehealth	<ul> <li>Healthcare that is delivered to a single patient over both a virtual telehealth method and in an in person setting, allowing some care over video/audio and some care in a provider office</li> </ul>
Modality	<ul> <li>A method of treatment, for example a drug therapy or a digital therapy delivered by telehealth.</li> </ul>
Parity (Coverage/ Service and Payment)	• Parity requirements force health payers (like insurers) to treat telehealth services similarly to in-person services. Coverage and service parity is more common and requires payers to cover the same services via telehealth as those covered in-person. However, payers may not pay the same rates to providers for services delivered via one or the other. Payment parity is less common and requires payers to pay the same rates to providers for care delivered via telehealth as they would if the care was delivered in-person.
Live Video	<ul> <li>Live and two-way interaction between a provider and a patient using video telecommunications technology that transmits a picture and audio.</li> </ul>
Audio Only	<ul> <li>Live and two-way interaction between a provider and a patient using only audio technology without a visual image</li> </ul>
Remote Patient Monitoring (Telemonitoring)	• The use of information technology to monitor patients' health from a distance.
Mobile Health (mhealth)	<ul> <li>The use of devices such as phones and tablets, and the health-based apps developed for these devices, for health care</li> </ul>
Licensure Compacts	<ul> <li>An agreement among some states to streamline the licensing process for physicians who want to practice in multiple states. It offers a voluntary, expedited pathway to licensure for physicians who qualify.</li> </ul>

	REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
TERM	DEFINITION
Medication Abortion Care	• A safe and effective abortion method that uses a combination of drugs (mifepristone and misoprostol) to terminate a pregnancy.
Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS)	<ul> <li>A Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) is a drug safety program that the FDA can require for certain medications with serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits of the medication outweigh its risks.</li> <li>Mifepristone has been subject to REMS since 2000 despite robust health and safety evidence of its use.</li> </ul>
Health/Care Navigation	<ul> <li>A health/care navigator is a member of a health care team who helps individuals overcome barriers to quality care.</li> </ul>
Quality Family Planning (QFP)	<ul> <li>Developed by the CDC and HHS to help reproductive health and primary care providers to reflect the highest standard of care for patients who need services related to preventing or for achieving pregnancy.</li> </ul>

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