

# Telemedicine for Orthopaedic Practices

The use of telehealth services is an important and vital component to the delivery of health care to minimize exposure and risk of patients during the pandemic.

## Summary of Medicare Telemedicine Services

**HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA):** Effective immediately, the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will exercise enforcement discretion and waive penalties for HIPAA violations against health care providers that serve patients in good faith through everyday communications technologies, such as FaceTime or Skype, during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. For more information: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/index.html>

TYPE OF SERVICE	WHAT IS THE SERVICE?	HCPCS/CPT CODE	Patient Relationship with Provider
<b>MEDICARE TELEHEALTH VISITS</b>	A visit with a provider that uses telecommunication systems between a provider and a patient.	<p>Common telehealth services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>99201-99215 (Office or other outpatient visits)</li> <li>G0425-G0427 (Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial inpatient)</li> <li>G0406-G0408 (Follow-up inpatient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs)</li> </ul> <p>For a complete list: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes</a></p>	<p>For new* or established patients.</p> <p>*To the extent the 1135 waiver requires an established relationship, HHS will not conduct audits to ensure that such a prior relationship existed for claims submitted during this public health emergency</p>
<b>VIRTUAL CHECK-IN</b>	A brief (5-10 minutes) check in with your practitioner via telephone or other telecommunications device to decide whether an office visit or other service is needed. A remote evaluation of recorded video and/or images submitted by an established patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCPCS code G2012</li> <li>HCPCS code G2010</li> </ul>	For established patients.
<b>E-VISITS</b>	A communication between a patient and their provider through an online patient portal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>99421</li> <li>99422</li> <li>99423</li> <li>G2061</li> <li>G2062</li> <li>G2063</li> </ul>	For established patients.