

# Telehealth for Shared Decision Making in Lung Cancer Screening

## Quick Reference Guide

**Beginning March 2020 and continuing through the end of the current COVID-19 emergency**, the rules for providing telehealth services have been relaxed. CMS has expanded the use of telehealth services for the Shared Decision Making visit on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

### What does this mean?

Ordering providers can provide the Shared Decision Making counseling via a telecommunication device rather than a face-to-face office visit. Previous geographic and originating site-of-service restrictions have been lifted so the visit can be done with the patient in his/her home. The telehealth visit can be conducted over the phone as an "audio only" visit if the patient is not able to access a video platform. In centralized LCS programs in which an NP or other licensed provider performs the Shared Decision Making, the visit can be scheduled ahead of time and on a different day than the CT; this may improve timeliness and efficiency in scheduling.

### How is the telehealth visit billed?

The telehealth visit for Shared Decision Making is billed as code G0296 along with the modifier 95. Specific documentation is required such as:

**Telehealth Statement:** *This visit was conducted with the use of an interactive audio and video telecommunication system that permits the real-time communication between the patient and provider. The patient consent for this visit was obtained before the visit.*

If the visit is performed with "audio only," it should be documented as such.

### Who can provide Shared Decision Making via telehealth?

Only licensed independent providers can bill for the Shared Decision Making visit. This includes physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

### Does Medicare pay the same amount for telehealth services?

Medicare pays the same amount for the telehealth Shared Decision Making as it would if the service was furnished in person.

#### Resources:

- [Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Factsheet \(March 17, 2020\)](#)
- [HHS Telehealth Guidance & Information](#)
- [The Center for Connected Health Policy \(CCHP\)](#)