



# Move Telehealth Forward

## AT A GLANCE:

- Telehealth can make health care more efficient and more affordable.
- The requirement commonly referred to as “payment parity” mandates that providers are paid for telehealth visits at the same level as in-person care.
- The payment parity mandate fails to pass on cost savings back to consumers.

**Minnesota’s nonprofit health plans support a permanent expansion of telehealth with payment flexibility to reflect the lower cost of care delivery.**

### Council members supported the expansion of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minnesota’s nonprofit health plans supported the exponential expansion of telehealth at parity levels during the COVID-19 pandemic to support provider adoption of telehealth and ensure patient access.

### Telehealth policy is at risk of increasing spending.

The Commonwealth Fund estimates that up to 90 percent of visits for low-acuity conditions, such as a sinus infection, will be additive. Without flexible payment options to reflect actual costs this will accelerate spending growth.

### Telehealth can help lower the cost of health care.

Marginal costs for telemedicine visits are lower than for in- person visits and reimbursement should reflect those costs. Flexible payment options will also spur much-needed competition among providers.



## BY THE NUMBERS

*3000% increase in utilization 2019-2020*

*7-fold growth projected by 2025*

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