Policy Discussion: Telehealth

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• Contracts include States of Iowa and North Dakota, NAMI-Iowa, regions, IMHCA and other providers
Telehealth is...

• Current IA Code 514C.34: “Telehealth” means the delivery of health care services through the use of interactive audio and video.
Telehealth is...

- Per HF 294: “Telehealth” means the delivery of health care services through the use of real-time interactive audio and video, or other real-time interactive electronic media, regardless of where the health care professional and the covered person are located.
Telehealth is not...

- Per current IA code and HF 294: “Telehealth” does not include the delivery of health care services delivered solely through and audio-only telephone, electronic mail message, or facsimile transmission.
In addition to changing the definition, HF 294 adds:

- Health carrier shall reimburse for telehealth services the same as in person.
- A condition of reimbursement cannot be requiring an additional health care professional be located in the same room as the covered person.
- Effective date: upon enactment
- Retroactive Applicability: Telehealth services provided on or after January 1, 2021
What insurance is covered by this bill?

• Insurance companies that are controlled by the Iowa State Legislature only
• Individual insurance companies are regulated by the state in which they are domiciled and are subject to the laws in other states where they do business.
What insurance is NOT covered by this bill?

Federally regulated plans including:
- Medicare – regulated by CMS
- Federal Employee Plans – regulated by the Office of Personnel Management
- Veterans plans like CHAMPUS or Tri-Care-regulated by Defense Health Agency
- Self insured plans – regulated by ERISA in the US Dept of Labor
What about Audio only?

HF 431 is a bill relating to the provision of audio-only telehealth or telemedicine by health care professionals.
What does HF 431 do?

HF 431 requires any board that licenses or certifies health-related professionals to amend or adopt rules to allow the use of interactive audio-only communication if:

1. There is no law to the contrary
2. Meets the same standards of care and professional ethics as required for in person
Questions?
Next Steps?

1. Advocate for passage of HF 294
2. Advocate for passage of HF 88
3. Advocate with Federal partners to change federally regulated plans to include telehealth
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