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MEMORANDUM (DMS-26)

To: Outpatient Behavioral Health Agencies and Independently Licensed Practitioners

From: Division of Medical Services (DMS)

Date: April 6, 2020

Re: Use of Telemedicine to Provide Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services during COVID-19 Outbreak

The Governor declared a public health emergency on March 12, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Arkansas. In response to this declaration, DMS is suspending the rules prohibiting telemedicine for Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling with or without the Beneficiary being present. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to provide Marital and Family Therapy Services via telemedicine. Any technology deemed appropriate may be used, including telephones, but technology must utilize direct communication that takes place in real-time.

The rules suspended are located in Section 252.113 and Section 252.114 of the Outpatient Behavioral Health Provider Manual.

Revision made on April 15, 2020:

The allowable codes for these rule suspensions:

- **Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling with Beneficiary Present**
 - 90847, U4, GT
 - 90847, U4, U5, GT – Substance Abuse
 - 90847, UC, UK, U4, GT – Dyadic Treatment
 - Place of Service to include 02 Telemedicine
- **Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling without Beneficiary Present**
 - 90846, U4, GT
 - 90846, U4, U5, GT – Substance Abuse
 - Place of Service to include 02 Telemedicine

This rule suspension ends with the Governor's Executive Order at the end of the declaration of emergency.

To ensure quality and consistency of care to Medicaid beneficiaries, DMS will coordinate with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) to conduct retrospective reviews and audits of telemedicine services provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please keep all records of services as required by Medicaid billing rules.