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## MEMORANDUM (DMS-27)

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To: Outpatient Behavioral Health Agencies and Independently Licensed Practitioners

From: Division of Medical Services (DMS)

Date: April 7, 2020

Re: Use of Telemedicine to Provide Mental Health Diagnosis to Persons under Twenty-One (21) Years of Age during COVID-19 Outbreak

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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 rule limiting Mental Health Diagnosis be conducted via telemedicine to only the adult population over age 21. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to use telemedicine as an allowable mode of service delivery to beneficiaries under the age of 21.

The rule to be suspended is in Section 252.117 of the Outpatient Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual.

The allowable code for this rule suspension:

- Mental Health Diagnosis
  - 90791, U4, GT
  - Allowable Mode of Delivery- Adults, Youth and Children

**The rule will be suspended until the end date of the Governor's Executive Order.**

**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.**