



## JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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*This month, Senate Bill 2395 (Act 226), introduced by Senator Rosalyn Baker, was signed into law by Governor David Ige. This law marks an important milestone for telehealth in Hawaii and provides the foundation for increasing telehealth utilization and promoting increased access to critical services for patients across the State of Hawaii.*

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### Governor David Ige signs SB2395, Relating to Telehealth into Law



According to the National Telehealth Resource Center focused on policy ([Center for Connected Health Policy](#)), with this new law Hawaii is "one of the most progressive states in terms of telehealth policies." (See the full CCHP Newsletter [HERE](#)).

This law builds upon the work of the [2016 Telehealth Policy Workshop](#), co-sponsored by the [Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center](#) and U.S. Senator Brian Schatz in January 2016 where health care stakeholder input was collected. The new comprehensive law lifts many of the long-standing barriers to the advancement of telehealth in Hawaii. Highlights of the law include:

- Requires the State's medicaid managed care and fee-for-service programs to cover services

- provided through telehealth;
- Specifies medical professional liability insurance policy requirements with regard to telehealth coverage;
- Clarifies that reimbursement for services provided through telehealth shall be equivalent to reimbursement for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient;
- Ensures that telehealth encompasses store and forward technologies, remote monitoring, live consultation, and mobile health;
- Ensures that telehealth is covered when originating in a patient's home and other non-medical environments; and
- Other amendments related to telehealth for clarity.

Press Coverage:

- University of Hawaii press release, click [HERE](#).
- Center for Connected Health Policy newsletter, click [HERE](#).
- American Telemedicine Association article, click [HERE](#).
- To read the law in its entirety, click [HERE](#).

Pictured (L-R): Senator Rosalyn Baker, Hawaii State Legislature; Christina Higa, Co-Program Director, PBTRC; Governor David Ige, State of Hawaii; Deborah Birkmire-Peters, Co-Program Director, PBTRC

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## Medicare CY 2017 Physician Fee Schedule Released

On July 7, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released their proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for CY 2017. This year, CMS proposed expanding eligible telehealth services by adding the following 6 new telehealth codes for reimbursement:

- End-Stage Renal Disease Codes 90967, 90968, 90969, and 90970
- Advance Care Planning Codes 99497 and 99498

CMS also proposed to create two new G-codes to reflect the resource costs of providing critical care consultation services remotely to critically ill patients. The codes, GTTT1 and GTTT2, would be used for initial and subsequent services to describe critical care consultations delivered via telehealth.

For more information, read the CCHP July Newsletter, [HERE](#).

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### Upcoming Events

**21**  
JUL

**Webinar: Changing Healthcare Delivery:  
UMMC Center for Telehealth on the Rise**  
8:00am

### AHRQ Technical Brief on Telehealth

*Telehealth: Mapping the  
Evidence for Patient Outcomes  
from Systematic Reviews*

**25**  
JUL

**mHealth + Telehealth World 2016  
(Boston, MA)**

**1**  
AUG

**South Central Telehealth Forum 2016  
(Nashville, TN)**

**28**  
SEP

**ATA Fall Forum 2016  
(New Orleans, LA)**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) released a Technical Brief titled, "Telehealth: Mapping the Evidence for Patient Outcomes from Systematic Reviews." The brief provides an overview of the body of evidence about telehealth for use by decisionmakers.

To view the brief, click [HERE](#).

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