South Central TRC Mar. 2020 Legislative Update

Last Updated: April 06, 2020

South Central Telehealth Resource Center covers the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, & Tennessee

A few notes about this report:

1. Bills are organized into specific telehealth "topic area".
2. The Fiscal Note (FN) Outlook: The left hand column indicates the bill's Pre-Floor Score, and the right hand column indicates the bill's actual Floor Score of the last chamber it was in (either Senate or House).
3. Regulations are listed at the end in order of their publication date.
4. If you would like to learn more about any piece of legislation or regulation, the bill numbers and regulation titles are clickable and link out to additional information.

All Bills (organized by topic)

Demonstrations, Grants & Pilot Projects (3)
Title
Appropriations; Department of Education to provide grants to school districts to establish telehealth programs.

Description
An Act Making An Appropriation To The State Department Of Education To Provide Grants To School Districts For The Purpose Of Establishing And Operating Telehealth Programs At The Schools In The District For The Fiscal Year 2021.

Primary Sponsors
Phil Gunn

Bill Summary: Makes appropriations to provide grants to school districts for the purpose of establishing and operating telehealth programs at schools.

Title
Public Funds and Financing - As introduced, adds requirements to the spending, dedicating, or reserve of certain funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program by the department of human services and the department of health. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 9; Title 68 and Title 71.

Primary Sponsors
David Hawk

Bill Summary: Requires the department of health shall request and consider grant proposals, and make grant awards to qualified providers for evidence-based models and for innovations on evidence-based models, such as those using telehealth interventions and strategies for families with newborns that can improve program reach and effectiveness.

Title
Public Funds and Financing - As introduced, adds requirements to the spending, dedicating, or reserve of certain funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program by the department of human services and the department of health. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 9; Title 68 and Title 71.

Primary Sponsors
Raumesh Akbari

Bill Summary: Requires the department of health to request and consider grant proposals, and make grant awards to qualified providers for evidence-based models and for innovations on evidence-based models, such as those using telehealth interventions and strategies for families with newborns that can improve program reach and effectiveness.

Medicaid Reimbursement (3)
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**Title**
Medicaid; revise reimbursement for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and community health centers.

**Description**
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Provide That For Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers, The Distant Or Hub Site Provider Shall Be Reimbursed The Applicable Medicaid Fee For The Telehealth Services Provided; To Provide That Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers Shall Be Considered To Be Billable At The Same Face-To-Face Encounter Rate Used For All Other Medicaid Reimbursements To Those Centers Under The Prospective Payment System; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Rob Johnson

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**Title**
Medicaid reimbursement; authorize for substance abuse and mental health services for pregnant and postpartum women.

**Description**
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Authorize Medicaid Reimbursement For Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services For Pregnant And Postpartum Women In A Community-Based, Telehealth Or Faith-Based Setting; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Barbara Blackmon

**Bill Summary:** Requires Medicaid to reimburse for substance abuse and mental health services for pregnant and postpartum women, delivered in a community based, telehealth or faith-based care setting.
Title
Community health centers; revise reimbursement for telehealth services.

Description
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Provide That For Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers, The Distant Or Hub Site Provider Shall Be Reimbursed The Applicable Medicaid Fee For The Telehealth Services Provided; To Provide That Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers Shall Be Considered To Be Billable At The Same Face-To-Face Encounter Rate Used For All Other Medicaid Reimbursements To Those Centers Under The Prospective Payment System; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Bobby Jackson

Bill Summary: Provides that for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and CHCs, the distant or hub site provider shall be reimbursed the applicable Medicaid fee for the telehealth services provided. The services shall be considered to be billable at the same face-to-face encounter rate used for all other medicaid reimbursement.

### Network Adequacy (2)

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<td>TN</td>
<td>SB 2328</td>
<td>Action Deferred In Senate Commerce Labor Committee 2020 03 17</td>
<td>In Senate</td>
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Title
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, enacts the "Mental Healthcare and Substance Abuse Services Network Adequacy Act." - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 33; Title 47; Title 56 and Title 71.

Bill Summary: Allows (but does not require) the Commissioner to determine the sufficiency of network adequacy through certain criteria, such as telehealth or telemedicine for mental healthcare and substance use disorder.

Primary Sponsors
John Clemmons

Other (1)

Title
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, enacts the "Mental Healthcare and Substance Abuse Services Network Adequacy Act." - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 33; Title 47; Title 56 and Title 71.

Bill Summary: Allows (but does not require) the Commissioner to consider telehealth in determining network adequacy.

Primary Sponsors
Sara Kyle
Title
Income tax; authorize a credit for employers who pay the cost of a qualified wellness program.

Description
An Act To Provide An Income Tax Credit To Employers Who Pay Costs In Connection With A Qualified Wellness Program In The Amount Of 50% Of The Costs Paid In Connection With The Qualified Wellness Program; To Limit The Amount Of The Credit That An Employer May Claim In Any One Taxable Year; To Provide That The Aggregate Amount Of Tax Credits That May Be Awarded Under This Act In Any One Calendar Year Shall Not Exceed $1,000,000.00; To Provide The Components That A Wellness Program Must Have To Qualify For The Credit; To Provide That If The Amount Of The Allowable Credit Exceeds The Income Tax Liability Of The Employer In A Taxable Year, The Amount Of The Excess Shall Not Be Refundable Or Carried Forward To Any Other Taxable Year; To Require The State Department Of Health, Office Of Preventive Health, To Certify Employers' Eligibility For The Credit; To Provide That $30,000.00 Shall Be Appropriated Annually To The Department Of Health, Office Of Preventive Health, To Assist In The Discharge Of The Office'S Duties Under This Act; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Jody Steverson

Bill Summary: Provides an income tax credit to employers who pay costs in connection with a qualified wellness program in the amount of 50% of the cost paid in connection with the plan. A wellness plan must have three of four components, one of which is a supportive environment component which includes access to healthy options at the workplace, such as access to telehealth services.

Private Payer Reimbursement (5)
Title
Health insurance carriers; require to cap patient cost for prescriptions for insulin drugs.

Description
An Act To Create New Section 83-9-46.1, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Require Health Insurance Carriers That Provide Coverage For Prescription Insulin Drugs To Cap The Total Amount That A Covered Person Is Required To Pay For A Covered Prescription Insulin Drug At An Amount Not To Exceed One Hundred Dollars Per Thirty-Day Supply Of Insulin, Regardless Of The Amount Or Type Of Insulin Needed To Fill The Covered Person’S Prescription; To Direct The Attorney General To Investigate Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs That Are Made Available To Mississippi Consumers To Ensure Adequate Consumer Protections In Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs And Whether Additional Consumer Protections Are Needed; To Provide That The Attorney General Shall Issue And Make Available To The Public, The Governor And The Legislature A Report Detailing His Or Her Findings From The Investigation Conducted Under This Act; To Bring Forward Section 25-15-9, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides For The State And School Employees Health Insurance Plan, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; To Bring Forward Section 83-9-46, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides That Health Insurance Policies And Plans Must Offer Coverage For Diabetes Treatments, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
William Arnold

Bill Summary: Requires state employees insurance plans to include coverage for telemedicine services.
Title
Income tax; authorize a credit for employers who pay the cost of a qualified wellness program.

Description
An Act To Provide An Income Tax Credit To Employers Who Pay Costs In Connection With A Qualified Wellness Program In The Amount Of 50% Of The Costs Paid In Connection With The Qualified Wellness Program; To Limit The Amount Of The Credit That An Employer May Claim In Any One Taxable Year; To Provide That The Aggregate Amount Of Tax Credits That May Be Awarded Under This Act In Any One Calendar Year Shall Not Exceed $1,000,000.00; To Provide The Components That A Wellness Program Must Have To Qualify For The Credit; To Provide That If The Amount Of The Allowable Credit Exceeds The Income Tax Liability Of The Employer In A Taxable Year, The Amount Of The Excess Shall Not Be Refundable Or Carried Forward To Any Other Taxable Year; To Require The State Department Of Health, Office Of Preventive Health, To Certify Employers' Eligibility For The Credit; To Provide That $30,000.00 Shall Be Appropriated Annually To The Department Of Health, Office Of Preventive Health, To Assist In The Discharge Of The Office'S Duties Under This Act; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Joey Fillingane

Bill Summary: Provides a tax credit to employers who offer a qualified wellness program. It must include 3 of 4 specific components, one of which is a support environment component which can include access to on-site care and/or telehealth services.
Title
Health insurance carriers; require to cap patient cost for prescriptions for insulin drugs.

Description
An Act To Create New Section 83-9-46.1, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Require Health Insurance Carriers That Provide Coverage For Prescription Insulin Drugs To Cap The Total Amount That A Covered Person Is Required To Pay For A Covered Prescription Insulin Drug At An Amount Not To Exceed $100.00 Per Thirty-Day Supply Of Insulin, Regardless Of The Amount Or Type Of Insulin Needed To Fill The Covered Person’S Prescription; To Direct The Attorney General To Investigate Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs That Are Made Available To Mississippi Consumers To Ensure Adequate Consumer Protections In Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs And Whether Additional Consumer Protections Are Needed; To Provide That The Attorney General Shall Issue And Make Available To The Public, The Governor And The Legislature A Report Detailing His Or Her Findings From The Investigation Conducted Under This Act; To Bring Forward Section 25-15-9, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides For The State And School Employees Health Insurance Plan, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; To Bring Forward Section 83-9-46, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides That Health Insurance Policies And Plans Must Offer Coverage For Diabetes Treatments, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Kevin Blackwell

Bill Summary: Requires insurance for state employees provide coverage for telemedicine services.

Bill Number: SB 2559
Last Action: Died In Committee 2020 03 03
Status: Failed

Title
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, makes various changes to the law concerning the electronic delivery of health care and its coverage under insurance policies. - Amends TCA Title 56 and Section 63-1-155.

Primary Sponsors
Robin Smith

Bill Summary: Alters reimbursement requirements for telehealth delivered services, including requiring reimbursement of a facility fee. It also requires coverage of remote patient monitoring if covered by Medicare.

Bill Number: HB 1699
Last Action: H Placed On Regular Calendar 2 For 3 19 2020 2020 03 19
Status: Passed Senate
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, makes various changes to the law concerning the electronic delivery of health care and its coverage under insurance policies. - Amends TCA Title 56 and Section 63-1-155.

Primary Sponsors
Art Swann

Bill Summary: Alters reimbursement requirements for telehealth delivered services, including requiring reimbursement of a facility fee. It also requires coverage of remote patient monitoring if covered by Medicare.

Regulatory, Licensing & Advisory Boards (1)

Title
Center for Rural Health Innovation; establish to provide services and resources to rural hospitals.

Description
An Act To Establish The Mississippi Center For Rural Health Innovation Within The Office Of Rural Health Of The State Department Of Health; To Provide That The Purpose Of The Center Is To Provide Services And Resources To Rural Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics And Rural Federally Qualified Health Centers, Including Expert Analysis, Guidance, Training Opportunities And Telehealth Investment; To Specify The Minimum Areas Of Service To Be Provided By The Center; To Provide That The Department Shall Provide Personnel And Resources As Necessary To Provide For The Operation Of The Center, And Shall Be Authorized To Enter Into Contracts As Necessary To Carry Out The Purpose Of The Center; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Sam Mims

Bill Summary: Creates the Mississippi Center for Rural Health Innovation within the Office of Rural Health of the State Department of Health. The purpose of the center is to provide services and resources to rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, rural health clinics and rural federally qualified health centers, including expert analysis, guidance, training opportunities and telehealth investment.
Title
Community health centers; revise reimbursement for telehealth services.

Description
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Provide That For Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers, The Distant Or Hub Site Provider Shall Be Reimbursed The Applicable Medicaid Fee For The Telehealth Services Provided; To Provide That Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers Shall Be Considered To Be Billable At The Same Face-To-Face Encounter Rate Used For All Other Medicaid Reimbursements To Those Centers Under The Prospective Payment System; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Bobby Jackson

Bill Summary: Provides that for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and CHCs, the distant or hub site provider shall be reimbursed the applicable Medicaid fee for the telehealth services provided. The services shall be considered to be billable at the same face-to-face encounter rate used for all other medicaid reimbursement.
# South Central TRC Mar. 2020 Regulatory Update

## Apr 06, 2020

Total State Regs Exported : 5

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**Issues**
Cross-State Licensing

**Labels**

**Title**
Nursing, Board of [Sequence Number: 09-21-19]

**Agency**
Nursing, Board of (TN)

**Description**
Amends rules related to the Enhanced Nurse's Licensure Compact.

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**Issues**
Online Prescribing

**Labels**

**Title**
Part 2635 Chapter 5: Practice of Telemedicine, Rule 5.9

**Agency**
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE (MS)

**Description**
New rule to establish practice requirements for physicians who wish to dispense medications via technology/automated systems via telemedicine.

**Regulation Summary**
Establishes practice requirements for physicians who wish to dispense medications via technology/automated systems via telemedicine.

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**Issues**
Regulatory, Licensing & Advisory Boards

**Labels**

**Title**
Part 2635 Chapter 5: Practice of Telemedicine, Rule 5.1

**Agency**
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE (MS)

**Description**
Rule 5.1 is being modified to clarify the rules regarding the use of telemedicine.

**Regulation Summary**
Amends the definition of telemedicine to include “store and forward” and clarify that the patient must be in a separate location and the interaction must replicate the experience of in-person care. It also provides a revised definition for “emergency telemedicine”.

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**Issues**
Regulatory, Licensing & Advisory Boards

**Labels**

**Title**
Part 2635 Chapter 5: Practice of Telemedicine, Rule 5.7

**Agency**
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE (MS)

**Description**
Rule 5.7 is being modified to clarify the rules regarding the use of telemedicine in the consultation process with mid-level providers in a hospital setting.

**Regulation Summary**
Amends language related to consultation between physicians and APRNs using emergency telemedicine.
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**Issues**
Medicaid Reimbursement

**Labels**

**Title**
Title 23: Division of Medicaid, Part 212: Rural Health Clinics, Chapter 1: General, Rule 1.1: Provider Enrollment Requirements, Rule 1.2: Service Limits, Rule 1.3: Covered and Non-Covered Services, Rule 1.4: Reimbursement Methodology, Rule 1.5: Documentation Requirements, Rule 1.6: Co-Mingling, Rule 1.7: Pregnancy Related Eligibles and Rule 1.8: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).

**Agency**
DIVISION OF MEDICAID (MS)

**Description**
This administrative code filing is being submitted to allow the Division of Medicaid to reimburse an RHC the encounter rate for the administration of certain categories of physician administered drugs (PADS) referred to as Clinician Administered Drug and Implantable Drug System Devices (CADDs), reimbursed under the pharmacy benefit, effective to correspond with SPA 18-0013 eff. 07/01/18 and to allow Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) to provide mental health services in an RHC.

**Regulation Summary**
Clarifies the originating site facility fee for a Rural Health Clinic (RHC).