

Illinois Telehealth Network Newsletter



Vol. 8, Issue 1
Winter 2023



From the Executive Director

Greetings ITN Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe we are already two months into the new year. I hope you were able to take a step back and enjoy time with your family and friends during the holiday season. As soon as we submitted our HRSA RHND application, the USDA announced this year's Distance Learning & Telemedicine grant window. We enlisted the help of several team members from multiple member organizations and successfully submitted a \$1,000,000

application, we look forward to a late summer/early fall announcement. There's been a lot of advocacy and discussions surrounding Telehealth policy and reimbursement, a few are mentioned below. We are staying involved in discussions to move telehealth policy and reimbursement forward. Let us know how we can help your organization.

Gurpreet S. Mander, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAP
Executive Director, Illinois Telehealth Network

CMS Updates



Updated Coverage to Care Resources are Now Available

[Coverage to Care](https://www.cms.gov/c2c) has released newly updated resources to help those served by CMS understand their health coverage and get health care services they need. Updated resources include the Roadmap to Better Care, Roadmap to

Behavioral Health, Prevention Flyers, and more. These updated materials are available in both English and Spanish. Additional languages will be made available soon.

Network News

**HSHS St. John's
Hospital Submits 6th**

USDA DLT Application

January 27, 2023, ITN Member HSHS St. John's submitted its 6th [USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant](#). The application included equipment for 6 ITN members and submitted at the ceiling amount of \$1,000,000. Projects included in this application include tele-sitting, remote patient monitoring and specialty tele consults. A late summer/early fall announcement is expected.



School Based Telehealth Pilot Launches

ITN Members' [Locust Street Resource Center](#) and [Shelbyville School District](#) partnered to provide Tele-Behavioral Health Therapy sessions during the school day to students. They recently completed their first semester, which was extremely successful and has both teams looking for ways to provide additional resources to fit the needs of the district. We hope to expand this pilot to include psychiatric services and other surrounding districts.

SCHOOL BASED TELEHEALTH PILOT

7/18/2022 – 12/31/22

SHELBYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



8 students
1st – 12th grade



8 Intakes
29 Therapy Session



2220 Miles Saved
\$1454.10 Mileage Saved



49 Hours and 20 Minutes
Windshield Time Saved
78 Hours and 20 Minutes
Caregiver Time Savings



Based on round trip to Effingham
Federal rate for mileage @ \$0.655/mile

Based on round trip to Effingham with 1 hour session



Connecting Resources, Strengthening Rural Health Care, Saving Lives

Industry News



OIG Toolkit on Analyzing Telehealth Claims To Assess Program Integrity Risks

In the September 2022 data brief Medicare Telehealth Services During the First Year of the Pandemic: Program Integrity Risks, OEI-02-20-00720, OIG identified 1,714 providers whose billing for telehealth

services during the first year of the pandemic poses a high risk to Medicare. As a followup to the data brief, OIG plans to release a toolkit that will provide information for our public and private sector partners about analyzing claims data for telehealth services. Gaining a better understanding of the program integrity risks associated with telehealth can help policymakers and stakeholders develop necessary safeguards and address individual cases of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Announced or Revised	Agency	Title	Component	Report Number(s)	Expected Issue Date (FY)
January 2023	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	OIG Toolkit on Analyzing Telehealth Claims To Assess Program Integrity Risks	Office of Evaluation and Inspections	OEI-02-20-00723	2023

AMGA Calls on Congress to Advance Value-Based Care, Support Providers

American Medical Group Association's letter to congressional leaders

emphasized how establishing a more

sustainable Medicare program can help advance value-based care and ensure patient care access. [Read More Here](#)



Video Telehealth Linked to Reduction in Pediatric Hospital Transfers

Recent research describes how video telehealth resources helped reduce pediatric hospital transfers within rural emergency departments. [Read More Here.](#)

Member Updates



Membership Dues

After waiving Membership Dues for FY2020 and FY2021, the ITN Board voted to reinstate them for FY2022. Watch your email for your invoice later this year. If you have any questions please reach out to us.

Upcoming Events

[ATA 2023 Annual Conference and Expo](#)

- **March 5 - 7, 2023** || San Antonio, TX

[Leveraging Telemedicine to Eliminate Outcome Disparities for Rural-born Newborns](#)

- **March 16, 2023** || Webinar

SIU's 2nd Annual Telehealth Conference Developing Strategies for Virtual Care in your Healthcare Practice

- **August 30, 2023** || Springfield, IL and Virtual



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