

§ 410.78

midwife (that is, the midwife is physically present and immediately available).

(d) *Professional services.* A nurse-midwife can be paid for professional services only when the services have been performed personally by the nurse-midwife.

(1) Supervision of other nonphysician staff by a nurse-midwife does not constitute personal performance of a professional service by the nurse-midwife.

(2) The service is provided on an assignment-related basis, and a nurse-midwife may not charge a beneficiary for a service not payable under this provision. If the beneficiary has made payment for a service, the nurse-midwife must make the appropriate refund to the beneficiary.

(3) A nurse-midwife may provide services that he or she is legally authorized to perform under State law as a nurse-midwife, if the services would otherwise be covered by the Medicare program when furnished by a physician or incident to a physician's professional services.

[63 FR 58909, Nov. 2, 1998]

§ 410.78 Telehealth services.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section the following definitions apply:

(1) *Asynchronous store and forward technologies* means the transmission of a patient's medical information from an originating site to the physician or practitioner at the distant site. The physician or practitioner at the distant site can review the medical case without the patient being present. An asynchronous telecommunications system in single media format does not include telephone calls, images transmitted via facsimile machines and text messages without visualization of the patient (electronic mail). Photographs visualized by a telecommunications system must be specific to the patient's medical condition and adequate for furnishing or confirming a diagnosis and or treatment plan. Dermatological photographs, for example, a photograph of a skin lesion, may be considered to meet the requirement of a single media format under this provision.

(2) *Distant site* means the site at which the physician or practitioner de-

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livering the service is located at the time the service is provided via a telecommunications system.

(3) *Interactive telecommunications system* means multimedia communications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and distant site physician or practitioner. Telephones, facsimile machines, and electronic mail systems do not meet the definition of an interactive telecommunications system.

(4) *Originating site* means the location of an eligible Medicare beneficiary at the time the service being furnished via a telecommunications system occurs. For asynchronous store and forward telecommunications technologies, the only originating sites are Federal telemedicine demonstration programs conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.

(b) *General rule.* Medicare Part B pays for office or other outpatient visits, subsequent hospital care services (with the limitation of one telehealth visit every 3 days), subsequent nursing facility care services (not including the Federally-mandated periodic visits under § 483.40(c) and with the limitation of one telehealth visit every 30 days), professional consultations, psychiatric diagnostic interview examination, neurobehavioral status exam, individual psychotherapy, pharmacologic management, end-stage renal disease-related services included in the monthly capitation payment (except for one "hands on" visit per month to examine the access site), individual and group medical nutrition therapy services, individual and group kidney disease education services, individual and group diabetes self-management (DSMT) training services (except for one hour of in-person services to be furnished in the year following the initial DSMT service to ensure effective injection training), and individual and group health and behavior assessment and intervention services furnished by an interactive telecommunications system if the following conditions are met:

(1) The physician or practitioner at the distant site must be licensed to furnish the service under State law. The

physician or practitioner at the distant site who is licensed under State law to furnish a covered telehealth service described in this section may bill, and receive payment for, the service when it is delivered via a telecommunications system.

(2) The practitioner at the distant site is one of the following:

- (i) A physician as described in § 410.20.
- (ii) A physician assistant as described in § 410.74.
- (iii) A nurse practitioner as described in § 410.75.
- (iv) A clinical nurse specialist as described in § 410.76.
- (v) A nurse-midwife as described in § 410.77.
- (vi) A clinical psychologist as described in § 410.71.
- (vii) A clinical social worker as described in § 410.73.
- (viii) A registered dietitian or nutrition professional as described in § 410.134.

(3) The services are furnished to a beneficiary at an originating site, which is one of the following:

- (i) The office of a physician or practitioner.
- (ii) A critical access hospital (as described in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Act).
- (iii) A rural health clinic (as described in section 1861(aa)(2) of the Act).
- (iv) A Federally qualified health center (as defined in section 1861(aa)(4) of the Act).
- (v) A hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Act).
- (vi) A hospital-based or critical access hospital-based renal dialysis center (including satellites).
- (vii) A skilled nursing facility (as defined in section 1819(a) of the Act).
- (viii) A community mental health center (as defined in section 1861(ff)(3)(B) of the Act).

(4) Originating sites must be located in either a rural health professional shortage area as defined under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(1)(A)) or in a county that is not included in a Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D) of the Act. Entities participating in a Federal telemedicine demonstration project that

have been approved by, or receive funding from, the Secretary as of December 31, 2000 qualify as an eligible originating site regardless of geographic location.

(5) The medical examination of the patient is under the control of the physician or practitioner at the distant site.

(c) *Telepresenter not required.* A telepresenter is not required as a condition of payment unless a telepresenter is medically necessary as determined by the physician or practitioner at the distant site.

(d) *Exception to the interactive telecommunications system requirement.* For Federal telemedicine demonstration programs conducted in Alaska or Hawaii only, Medicare payment is permitted for telehealth when asynchronous store and forward technologies, in single or multimedia formats, are used as a substitute for an interactive telecommunications system.

(e) *Limitations.* (1) A clinical psychologist and a clinical social worker may bill and receive payment for individual psychotherapy via a telecommunications system, but may not seek payment for medical evaluation and management services.

(2) The physician visits required under § 483.40(c) of this title may not be furnished as telehealth services.

(f) *Process for adding or deleting services.* Changes to the list of Medicare telehealth services are made through the annual physician fee schedule rule-making process.

[66 FR 55330, Nov. 1, 2001, as amended at 67 FR 80041, Dec. 31, 2002; 69 FR 66423, Nov. 15, 2004; 70 FR 70330, Nov. 21, 2005; 72 FR 66399, Nov. 27, 2007; 73 FR 69934, Nov. 19, 2008; 74 FR 62005, Nov. 25, 2009; 75 FR 73615, Nov. 29, 2010]

Subpart C—Home Health Services Under SMI

§ 410.80 Applicable rules.

Home health services furnished under Medicare Part B are subject to the rules set forth in subpart E of part 409 of this chapter.