



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

DATE: November 7, 2023

TO: Executive Directors of Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)
Executive Directors of Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs)
Todd Culver, President and CEO, Incompass Michigan
Robert L. Stein, General Counsel, Michigan Assisted Living Association

FROM: Belinda Hawks, MPA
Director
Adult Home and Community Based Services Division
Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration

SUBJECT: Skill Building Telehealth

In recent months, MDHHS has received feedback requesting skill building services via telehealth to be provided in the home. After careful and thoughtful consideration, we have made the decision to expand the community location requirement for skill building via telehealth to include the individual's home location.

Providers must continue to ensure the following requirements are met when providing skill building services per MMP 23-10 [Final-Bulletin-MMP-23-10-Telemedicine.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](#):

The CMHSP/PIHP must guarantee the individual is not being influenced or prompted by others when utilizing telemedicine.

MDHHS will be monitoring compliance through the Site Review process and interviews with beneficiaries. At no time, should telehealth services be provided at the convenience of the provider. Decisions to receive telehealth services should be made by the individual served and their families through the person-centered planning process.

Use of telemedicine should **ensure and promote community integration and prevent isolation of the beneficiary**. Evidence-based practice policies must be followed as appropriate for all services.

HCBS services like skill building are intended to promote community engagement and reduce isolation. PIHPs and CMHSPs will be required to monitor this closely as part of their HCBS compliance work.

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MDHHS will be updating the Bureau of Specialty Behavioral Health Services Telemedicine Database on our MDHHS Reporting Requirements Webpage before November 17, 2023. MDHHS plans to review current skill building language and evaluate whether any changes or updates are necessary.

Feel free to contact Lyndia Deromedi, at deromedil@michigan.gov with any questions.

cc: Kristen Jordan
Lyndia Deromedi
Brenda Stoneburner
Jackie Sproat
Kasi Hunzinger