

06/17/2022

Hello REDC Members,

Here is this week's policy update.

### **REDC Advocacy Day: Wednesday, June 22nd from 10am to 4pm EDT**

We look forward to seeing those participating in REDC advocacy day during one of the training sessions next week! **Please register below, if you have not done so already.**

- Tuesday, June 21st from 2pm to 3pm EDT: [Register Here.](#)
- Wednesday, June 22nd from 9am to 10am EDT: [Register Here.](#)

### **Telehealth**

#### **HHS Office of the Inspector General Releases Semiannual Report**

- The HHS OIG office released its [Spring 2022 Semiannual Report to Congress](#), which highlights nearly \$3 billion in expected recoveries as a result of HHS-OIG audits and investigations from October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022.
- Notably, the OIG report highlights that from March through December 2020, 84% of Medicare beneficiaries received telehealth services from providers with whom they had an established relationship.
  - In total 26 million beneficiaries, representing 39% of all Medicare beneficiaries, received at least one telehealth service from March through December 2020.

#### **HHS Issues Guidance on HIPAA and Audio-Only Telehealth**

- The guidance assists how covered health care providers and health plans can use remote communication technologies to provide audio-only telehealth services when such communications are conducted in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements of HIPAA.
- This guidance will help individuals to continue to benefit from audio-only telehealth by clarifying how covered entities can provide these services in compliance with the HIPAA Rules and by improving public confidence that covered entities are protecting the privacy and security of their health information.
- The Guidance on How the HIPAA Rules Permit Health Plans and Covered Health Care Providers to Use Remote Communication Technologies for Audio-Only Telehealth may be found at: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/hipaa-audio-telehealth/index.html>

#### **TRICARE Makes Permanent Audio-only Telehealth Coverage**

- Temporary coverage afforded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for telephonic (audio-only) office visits will be made permanent beyond the pandemic and will be effective July 1, 2022.
- For more information you can view the final rule [here](#).

### **Mental Health Conditions Remain Top Telehealth Diagnosis**

- According to [FAIR Health's Telehealth Regional Tracker](#), mental health conditions remained a top telehealth diagnosis despite overall declines in telehealth use in March 2022.
- Social work continued to be the top specialty in telehealth for the second straight month, both regionally and nationally.

Have a great weekend!

- Center Road Solutions Team