

## COVID-19: Use of telemedicine to provide marital and family behavioral health counseling services

In accordance with the public health emergency declared by the Governor on March 12, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Arkansas, and in order to maintain consistency with Arkansas Medicaid policy, Summit Community Care is suspending the rules prohibiting telemedicine for marital and family behavioral health counseling with or without the beneficiary being present. By suspending this rule, licensed behavioral health professionals will be able to provide marital and family therapy services via telemedicine. Any technology deemed appropriate may be used, including telephones, but technology must use direct communication that takes place in real time.

The rules to be suspended are in sections 252.113 and 252.114 of the *Outpatient Behavioral Health Provider Manual*.

The allowable codes for these rule suspensions:

- Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling with Beneficiary Present
  - 90847, U4, GT
  - 90847, U4, U5, GT –Substance Abuse
  - 90847, UC, UK, U4, GT – Dyadic Treatment
  - Place of Service to include 02 Telemedicine
- Marital/Family Behavioral Health Counseling without Beneficiary Present
  - 90846, U4, GT
  - 90846, U4, U5, GT Substance Abuse
  - Place of Service to include 02 Telemedicine

The rule will be suspended until the end date of the Governor's *Executive Order*.

If you have questions regarding this communication, please contact your local Provider Relations representative. For additional information regarding updates on COVID-19, please access the following:

<https://provider.summitcommunitycare.com/arkansas-provider/covid-19-updates>.