

REFERENCE TITLE: insurance coverage; telemedicine

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-second Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2016

## **SB 1363**

Introduced by  
Senator Griffin; Representatives Barton, Stevens, Thorpe; Senator Shooter;  
Representatives Gray, Livingston

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 20-841.09, 20-1057.13, 20-1376.05 AND 20-1406.05, ARIZONA  
REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 20-841.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 20-841.09. Telemedicine: coverage of health care services:  
5 definitions

6 A. All contracts issued, delivered or renewed on or after ~~January~~  
7 ~~JULY 1, 2015~~ 2017 must provide coverage for health care services that are  
8 provided through telemedicine if the health care service would be covered  
9 were it provided through in-person consultation between the subscriber and a  
10 health care provider and provided to a subscriber receiving the service in  
11 ~~a rural region of~~ this state. The contract may limit the coverage to those  
12 health care providers who are members of the corporation's provider network.

13 B. This section does not prevent a corporation from imposing  
14 deductibles, copayment or coinsurance requirements for a health care service  
15 provided through telemedicine if the deductible, copayment or coinsurance  
16 does not exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an  
17 in-person consultation for the same health care service.

18 C. Services provided through telemedicine or resulting from a  
19 telemedicine consultation shall comply with Arizona licensure requirements,  
20 accreditation standards and any practice guidelines of a national association  
21 of medical professionals promoting access to medical care for consumers via  
22 telecommunications technology or other qualified medical professional  
23 societies to ensure quality of care.

24 D. This section does not apply to limited benefit coverage as defined  
25 in section 20-1137.

26 E. For the purposes of this section:

27 1. "Health care services" means services provided for the following  
28 conditions or in the following settings:

- 29 (a) Trauma.
- 30 (b) Burn.
- 31 (c) Cardiology.
- 32 (d) Infectious diseases.
- 33 (e) Mental health disorders.
- 34 (f) Neurologic diseases including strokes.
- 35 (g) Dermatology.

36 ~~2. "Rural region" means either:~~

37 ~~(a) An area that is located in a county with a population of less than~~  
38 ~~nine hundred thousand persons.~~

39 ~~(b) A city or town that is located in a county with a population of~~  
40 ~~nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than~~  
41 ~~thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five~~  
42 ~~hundred thousand persons or more.~~

43 ~~3.~~ 2. "Telemedicine":

44 (a) Means the interactive use of audio, video or other electronic  
45 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment.

(b) Does not include the sole use of an audio-only telephone, a video-only system, a facsimile machine, instant messages or electronic mail.

Sec. 2. Section 20-1057.13, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

20-1057.13. Telemedicine: coverage of health care services: definitions

A. An evidence of coverage issued, delivered or renewed by a health care services organization on or after ~~January~~ JULY 1, ~~2015~~ 2017 must provide coverage for health care services that are provided through telemedicine if the health care service would be covered were it provided through in-person consultation between the enrollee and a health care provider and provided to an enrollee receiving the service in ~~a rural region of~~ this state. The evidence of coverage may limit the coverage to those health care providers who are members of the health care services organization's provider network.

B. This section does not prevent a health care services organization from imposing deductibles, copayment or coinsurance requirements for a health care service provided through telemedicine if the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation for the same health care service.

C. Services provided through telemedicine or resulting from a telemedicine consultation shall comply with Arizona licensure requirements, accreditation standards and any practice guidelines of a national association of medical professionals promoting access to medical care for consumers via telecommunications technology or other qualified medical professional societies to ensure quality of care.

D. This section does not apply to limited benefit coverage as defined in section 20-1137.

E. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Health care services" means services provided for the following conditions or in the following settings:

- (a) Trauma.
- (b) Burn.
- (c) Cardiology.
- (d) Infectious diseases.
- (e) Mental health disorders.
- (f) Neurologic diseases including strokes.
- (g) Dermatology.

~~2. "Rural region" means either:~~

~~(a) An area that is located in a county with a population of less than nine hundred thousand persons.~~

~~(b) A city or town that is located in a county with a population of nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five hundred thousand persons or more.~~

1 ~~3-~~ 2. "Telemedicine":

2 (a) Means the interactive use of audio, video or other electronic  
3 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment.

4 (b) Does not include the sole use of an audio-only telephone, a  
5 video-only system, a facsimile machine, instant messages or electronic mail.

6 Sec. 3. Section 20-1376.05, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
7 read:

8 20-1376.05. Telemedicine; coverage of health care services;  
9 definitions

10 A. All policies issued, delivered or renewed by a disability insurer  
11 on or after ~~January~~ JULY 1, ~~2015~~ 2017 must provide coverage for health care  
12 services that are provided through telemedicine if the health care service  
13 would be covered were it provided through in-person consultation between the  
14 insured and a health care provider and provided to an insured receiving the  
15 service in ~~a rural region of~~ this state. The policy may limit the coverage  
16 to those health care providers who are members of the disability insurer's  
17 provider network.

18 B. This section does not prevent a disability insurer from imposing  
19 deductibles, copayment or coinsurance requirements for a health care service  
20 provided through telemedicine if the deductible, copayment or coinsurance  
21 does not exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an  
22 in-person consultation for the same health care service.

23 C. Services provided through telemedicine or resulting from a  
24 telemedicine consultation shall comply with Arizona licensure requirements,  
25 accreditation standards and any practice guidelines of a national association  
26 of medical professionals promoting access to medical care for consumers via  
27 telecommunications technology or other qualified medical professional  
28 societies to ensure quality of care.

29 D. This section does not apply to limited benefit coverage as defined  
30 in section 20-1137.

31 E. For the purposes of this section:

32 1. "Health care services" means services provided for the following  
33 conditions or in the following settings:

34 (a) Trauma.

35 (b) Burn.

36 (c) Cardiology.

37 (d) Infectious diseases.

38 (e) Mental health disorders.

39 (f) Neurologic diseases including strokes.

40 (g) Dermatology.

41 ~~2. "Rural region" means either:~~

42 ~~(a) An area that is located in a county with a population of less than~~  
43 ~~nine hundred thousand persons.~~

~~(b) A city or town that is located in a county with a population of nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five hundred thousand persons or more.~~

~~3.~~ 2. "Telemedicine":

(a) Means the interactive use of audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment.

(b) Does not include the sole use of an audio-only telephone, a video-only system, a facsimile machine, instant messages or electronic mail.

Sec. 4. Section 20-1406.05, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

20-1406.05. Telemedicine; coverage of health care services; definitions

A. All policies issued, delivered or renewed by a group disability insurer or a blanket disability insurer on or after ~~January~~ JULY 1, ~~2015~~ 2017 must provide coverage for health care services that are provided through telemedicine if the health care service would be covered were it provided through in-person consultation between the insured and a health care provider and provided to an insured receiving the service in ~~a rural region of~~ this state. The policy may limit the coverage to those health care providers who are members of the insurer's provider network.

B. This section does not prevent a group or blanket disability insurer from imposing deductibles, copayment or coinsurance requirements for a health care service provided through telemedicine if the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation for the same health care service.

C. Services provided through telemedicine or resulting from a telemedicine consultation shall comply with Arizona licensure requirements, accreditation standards and any practice guidelines of a national association of medical professionals promoting access to medical care for consumers via telecommunications technology or other qualified medical professional societies to ensure quality of care.

D. This section does not apply to limited benefit coverage as defined in section 20-1137.

E. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Health care services" means services provided for the following conditions or in the following settings:

(a) Trauma.

(b) Burn.

(c) Cardiology.

(d) Infectious diseases.

(e) Mental health disorders.

(f) Neurologic diseases including strokes.

(g) Dermatology.

1           ~~2. "Rural region" means either:~~  
2           ~~(a) An area that is located in a county with a population of less than~~  
3           ~~nine hundred thousand persons.~~  
4           ~~(b) A city or town that is located in a county with a population of~~  
5           ~~nine hundred thousand persons or more and whose nearest boundary is more than~~  
6           ~~thirty miles from the boundary of a city that has a population of five~~  
7           ~~hundred thousand persons or more.~~  
8           ~~3.~~ 2. "Telemedicine":  
9           (a) Means the interactive use of audio, video or other electronic  
10          media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment.  
11          (b) Does not include the sole use of an audio-only telephone, a  
12          video-only system, a facsimile machine, instant messages or electronic mail.  
13          Sec. 5. Effective date  
14          This act is effective from and after June 30, 2017.