

The Governor declared a state of emergency March 11, 2020. Several executive orders and public health orders have been issued since that time directing most individuals to “shelter in place.”

This emergency rule is being issued to ensure continuity of care and to minimize the strain placed on medical providers during the state of emergency. The rule will increase reimbursement for telehealth providers to ensure access and allow more providers to utilize such services. The rule also encourages the use of telehealth appointments where medically appropriate to speed return to work for essential workers.

Despite the emergency nature of these rules, primary stakeholders were consulted and involved in the drafting of the temporary requirements. Because of the nature of the rules addressed, no other alternatives were considered. It is expected the fiscal impact of the emergency will be minimal and far outweighed by the delays in medical treatment if this action isn’t undertaken.