

Breaking News: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Extended for 90 Days



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On July 19, 2021, Xavier Becerra renewed the [Public Health Emergency](#) for 90 days starting July 20. The move by the Secretary of Health & Human Services signals the federal government's intention to extend regulatory relaxations associated with telemedicine delivery and reimbursement into the fall. The Biden administration has stated that the PHE will not expire before the end of the year and that a minimum of 60 days' notice will be given prior to its conclusion. While the renewal clears the deck for Medicare delivery and reimbursement for another 90 days, several key payers have signaled a long-term commitment to telemedicine. [Cigna](#), for example, announced that payment for telemedicine will be at the same rate as an in-person visit. However, in reading the fine print from Cigna, United, Aetna, and other payers, there are statements about payment for "certain" services, only if the plan offers coverage, and deferring to state law. In other

words, telemedicine is here to stay, but don't be surprised about the checkerboard of payment policies that is under construction.

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