



December 6, 2024

Emily Forrest  
White House Domestic Policy Council  
Eisenhower Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20504

**Re: ATA Action Urging for Extension of Medicare Telehealth Flexibilities and the HDHP-HSA Tax Provision**

On behalf of ATA Action, the affiliated trade organization of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), we want to express our deep appreciation for your ongoing support of telehealth. Across the country, patients have increasingly come to rely on telehealth as an essential component of their healthcare, while many healthcare providers and hospital systems have successfully integrated virtual care into their daily operations, administrative processes, and patient care models.

It is vital that we ensure stability and certainty for both patients and healthcare organizations. This will allow them the necessary time to adapt to any changes and continue delivering care effectively. As you may be aware, several critical telehealth flexibilities are set to expire on December 31, 2024, unless extended. These include:

- **Geographic and originating site waivers:** Ensuring patients can access telehealth regardless of their location.
- **Expansion of the list of eligible Medicare providers:** Allowing therapists to furnish telehealth services.
- **Telemental health six-month in-person requirement waiver:** Expanding access to mental health services without a mandatory in-person visit requirement.
- **First dollar coverage for HDHP-HSAs:** Supporting patients with high-deductible health plans to access telehealth services.
- **Acute Hospital Care at Home Program:** Continuing to allow patients to receive care within the comfort of their homes for certain conditions.
- **Audio-only coverage:** A permanent allowance for limited audio-only telehealth services. *(In the recent Physician Fee Schedule, CMS made audio only coverage permanent but in limited situations)*
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs):** Allow RHCs and FQHCs to be distant sites and furnish telehealth. *(In the recent Physician Fee Schedule, CMS has continued this flexibility through CY2025)*

These flexibilities have been instrumental in expanding access to affordable, safe, and effective care for millions of Americans. As Congress negotiates the end-of-year legislative package, ATA Action's top priority is to ensure these telehealth provisions are extended for as long as possible, so that patients and providers can continue to rely on this vital mode of care.



We strongly urge you and your staff to advocate to Congress for the inclusion of these telehealth flexibilities in the year-end package, pushing for the longest extension feasible. Extending these provisions will help ensure continued access to essential healthcare services for all Americans, especially those in rural and underserved communities who may depend on telehealth to receive care.

Thank you again for your unwavering support. We look forward to your leadership in securing these critical extensions. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [kzebley@ataaction.org](mailto:kzebley@ataaction.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley  
Executive Director  
ATA Action