

Texas:

Telemedicine is health service performed by a physician or other medical personnel, acting within the scope of his or her license and performed at a different location than the location of the patient, in consultation with a health care provider, acting within the scope of his or her license, in the same location as the patient.

For example, an emergency room doctor who takes and x-ray and then sends it to a radiologist at a different location for reading and consultation.

Texas Benefit Certificates cover certain telemedicine services at the same rate as if it had been performed in person. The provision, as can be found in your USAble Mutual Benefit Certificate is as follows:

Telephone and Other Electronic Consultation. Subject to all other terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of this Plan set forth in this Benefit Certificate,

- a. Coverage is provided for Telemedicine and Telehealth services performed by a Physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas and operating with his or her own license, at the same rate as if it had been performed in person.
- b. However, Telemedicine and Telehealth services provided by only synchronous or asynchronous audio interaction or via text-only communication, including, but not limited to, an audio-only telephone consultation, a text-only email or SMS message, or a facsimile transmission, are not covered.
- c. Communications made by a Physician responsible for the direct care of a Covered Person in Case Management with involved health care Providers are covered.

The preceding provision contains certain terms with specific meanings; these can be found in the Glossary section of your Benefit Certificate and are reproduced below for your review.

Telehealth means a Health Intervention, other than Telemedicine, delivered by a health professional licensed, certified, or otherwise entitled to practice in the State of Texas and acting with the scope of the health professional's license, certification, or entitlement to the Covered Person at a different physical location than the health professional using telecommunication or information technology.

Telemedicine means a Health Intervention delivered by a Physician licensed in the State of Texas, or a health professional acting under the delegation and supervision of a Physician licensed in the State of Texas and acting with the scope of the Physician's or health professional's license to a Covered Person at

a different physical location that the Physician or health professional using telecommunications or information technology.

Health Intervention or Intervention means an item or service delivered or undertaken primarily to diagnose, detect, treat, palliate or alleviate a medical condition or to maintain or restore functional ability of the mind or body.