

A photograph of a doctor with a stethoscope around her neck, smiling and looking at a laptop screen. The image is overlaid on a teal background.

# Medicare Reimbursement for Telehealth After the Public Health Emergency

Updated: May 2023

## Background

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration, which ended on May 11, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded access to specific telehealth services. Now that the PHE has ended, codes that were temporarily added will be eligible for reimbursement until December 31, 2023. CMS has stated that they will consider changes to the Medicare Telehealth Services List through notice and comment rulemaking. SHM will continue to monitor any changes made and update this document as necessary.

## What is the current state of codes hospitalists may use?

The table below includes the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT<sup>®</sup>)<sup>1</sup> codes commonly used by hospitalists that are eligible for reimbursement as telehealth services. Please note that this list also reflects the elimination of the observation services CPT codes on January 1, 2023.

## List of Medicare Telehealth Services for Codes Typically Used by Hospitalists

Code	Description	Status	Code	Description	Status
99221	Initial hospital care	Available through Dec. 31, 2023	99233	Subsequent hospital care	Permanently on Telehealth List
99222	Initial hospital care	Available through Dec. 31, 2023	99238	Hospital discharge day	Available through Dec. 31, 2023
99223	Initial hospital care	Available through Dec. 31, 2023	99239	Hospital discharge day	Available through Dec. 31, 2023
99231	Subsequent hospital care	Permanently on Telehealth List	99291	Critical care first hour	Available through Dec. 31, 2023
99232	Subsequent hospital care	Permanently on Telehealth List	99292	Critical care additional 30 min.	Available through Dec. 31, 2023

### What is SHM doing about telehealth?

SHM remains strongly supportive of maintaining payment for telehealth services, including many hospital-based services. We will continue to advocate for hospitalists on issues of telehealth and encourage our members to share their experiences with telehealth.

### Additional Resources

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/physicians-and-other-clinicians-cms-flexibilities-fight-covid-19.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>