NOTICE: 2026 Telehealth Updates – Medicare & DEA Extensions

3/13/2026

Dear Providers,

Recent federal action has extended key Medicare and DEA telehealth flexibilities. These extensions continue existing policies and do not include new requirements.

Medicare Telehealth Extensions

- Medicare telehealth flexibilities, including the waiver of geographic and originating site restrictions, are extended through December 31, 2027
- The Acute Hospital Care at Home Program is extended through September 30, 2030
- These extensions apply retroactively and cover telehealth services furnished during any lapse period

DEA Telehealth Prescribing Extension

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued a one-year extension of the waiver allowing the prescribing of controlled substances via telehealth without a prior in-person visit or meeting an existing statutory exception.

Key details:

- No new or additional requirements
- Fourth extension of this waiver
- New expiration date: December 31, 2026
- Notice published in the Federal Register

Thank you for your continued partnership in serving our members.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Health Choice Pathway

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