

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0080.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 24-168

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Simpson, Michaelson Jenet

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Martinez, Young

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REMOTE MONITORING SERVICES FOR MEDICAID**
102 **MEMBERS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill requires the department of health care policy and financing (state department) to provide reimbursement for the use of telehealth remote monitoring for outpatient services for certain medicaid members (member).

The bill creates the telehealth remote monitoring grant program to provide grants to an outpatient health-care facility located in a designated

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

rural county or designated provider shortage area to assist the outpatient health-care facility clinic with the financial cost of providing telehealth remote monitoring for outpatient clinical services.

Beginning November 1, 2025, the bill requires the state department to provide coverage for continuous glucose monitors for members.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Concerning the use of telehealth remote monitoring to provide
5 outpatient clinical services:

6 (I) Telehealth helps connect Medicaid members with health-care
7 providers, enabling members to receive the care and consultation they
8 need without traveling to visit a provider in another city or area of the
9 state;

10 (II) Telehealth visits may provide cost savings for the Medicaid
11 system by improving access to primary care and helping avoid
12 unnecessary trips to the emergency department;

13 (III) More than 700,000 Coloradans live in a rural or frontier
14 county. Rural Coloradans face several unique challenges in health-care
15 access, affordability, and outcomes. Rural residents tend to be older and
16 in poorer health than their urban counterparts, and rural communities
17 often face challenges with access to care and financial viability.
18 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, rural
19 residents are more likely to die prematurely from heart disease, cancer,
20 unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke.

21 (IV) Despite these challenges, rural Coloradans play an important
22 role in food and energy production in the state and serve as an integral

1 part of Colorado's economy;

2 (V) Telehealth, including telehealth remote monitoring, is one of
3 the tools the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified
4 that can be used to improve the health of rural residents. Telehealth
5 remote monitoring uses digital technologies to collect health data from
6 patients in one location and electronically transmit that information
7 securely to providers in a different location.

8 (VI) Telehealth remote monitoring technologies provide a
9 particular benefit for patients with chronic conditions to receive the care
10 they need without the need for constant in-person visits to the patient's
11 physician's office. Patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart
12 disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease often require ongoing
13 monitoring and management. Telehealth remote monitoring can help
14 these patients better manage their conditions by providing regular
15 monitoring, alerts, and support.

16 (VII) Multiple studies indicate that telehealth remote monitoring
17 offers patients a clear return on investment over time, which extends
18 beyond initial health-care savings, including money associated with
19 transportation, time, and energy to visit their doctors; prescription,
20 laboratory, and imaging costs; and hard and soft expenses if a hospital
21 stay or emergency department visit is required;

22 (VIII) The return on telehealth remote monitoring isn't limited to
23 financial measurements. It also improves health outcomes, eliminates
24 communication barriers, facilitates faster access to providers, reduces
25 hospital readmissions, shortens hospital stays, and enhances patient
26 education.

27 (IX) Expanding access to telehealth remote monitoring for

1 patients is crucial to achieving health equity in Colorado.

2 (b) Concerning the use of continuous glucose monitoring devices:

3 (I) More than 300,000 Coloradans live with type 1 or type 2
4 diabetes;

5 (II) Managing diabetes requires strict blood glucose control
6 consisting of multiple blood glucose level checks daily, medication
7 administration, and balancing diet and physical activity;

8 (III) Continuous glucose monitoring devices provide patients and
9 health-care providers with more health data and detail concerning blood
10 glucose levels than traditional blood glucose meters;

11 (IV) For people with diabetes, continuous glucose monitoring
12 devices provide significant, life-changing, and lifesaving benefits for
13 managing their diabetes and can prevent or delay serious medical
14 complications, including those that may require hospitalization or could
15 lead to death;

16 (V) Individuals with diabetes who use continuous glucose
17 monitoring devices experience fewer episodes of hypoglycemia and a
18 reduction in their average blood glucose levels (A1C); and

19 (VI) Access to continuous glucose monitoring technology is
20 extremely important to individuals with diabetes, especially those who
21 live in communities with a disproportionate rate of diabetes. However,
22 many Coloradans with diabetes still lack access to this critical technology,
23 even though the use of continuous glucose monitoring devices is a
24 recognized standard of care for all insulin-dependent individuals.

25 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is in the best
26 interest of the state of Colorado to reduce health disparities and increase
27 health equity by prioritizing expanded access to remote patient

1 monitoring services in outpatient health-care settings across the state and
2 to provide access to continuous glucose monitoring services to diabetic
3 Coloradans to decrease health-care costs and improve health outcomes for
4 all Coloradans.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25.5-5-337 as
6 follows:

7 **25.5-5-337. Telehealth remote monitoring services for**
8 **outpatient clinical services - grant program - federal authorization -**
9 **rules - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
10 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

11 (a) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE TELEHEALTH REMOTE
12 MONITORING GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS
13 SECTION.

14 (b) "MEMBER" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN DETERMINED
15 ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE BENEFITS OR SERVICES UNDER THIS TITLE 25.5.

16 (c) "TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING" MEANS THE ONGOING
17 REMOTE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF CLINICAL DATA THROUGH
18 TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO DETECT CHANGES IN A
19 MEMBER'S CLINICAL STATUS, WHICH ALLOWS HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS TO
20 INTERVENE BEFORE A HEALTH CONDITION EXACERBATES AND REQUIRES
21 EMERGENCY INTERVENTION OR INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION.

22 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, THE STATE
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL INITIATE A STAKEHOLDER PROCESS TO DETERMINE
24 THE BILLING STRUCTURE FOR TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING FOR
25 OUTPATIENT CLINICAL SERVICES:

26 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT STAKEHOLDER PROCESS, REQUIRED
27 BY SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, MUST ENGAGE WITH

1 HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS WHO SERVE RURAL AND UNDERSERVED
2 POPULATIONS, INCLUDING RURAL HEALTH CLINICS AND FEDERALLY
3 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS TO ENSURE THE BILLING STRUCTURE IS
4 SUSTAINABLE IN THESE HEALTH-CARE SETTINGS.

5 (c) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2025, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
6 PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING THE BILLING STRUCTURE BASED ON
7 FEEDBACK FROM THE STAKEHOLDER PROCESS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTIONS
8 (2)(a) AND (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (3) (a) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL
10 PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE USE OF TELEHEALTH REMOTE
11 MONITORING FOR OUTPATIENT CLINICAL SERVICES IF:

12 (I) THE MEMBER'S HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT
13 TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING IS MEDICALLY NECESSARY BASED ON
14 THE MEMBER'S MEDICAL CONDITION OR STATUS;

15 (II) THE MEMBER'S HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT
16 TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING WOULD LIKELY PREVENT THE
17 MEMBER'S ADMISSION OR READMISSION TO A HOSPITAL, EMERGENCY
18 DEPARTMENT, NURSING FACILITY, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING;

19 (III) THE MEMBER IS COGNITIVELY AND PHYSICALLY CAPABLE OF
20 OPERATING THE TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING DEVICE OR EQUIPMENT
21 OR THE MEMBER HAS A CAREGIVER WHO IS ABLE AND WILLING TO ASSIST
22 WITH THE TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING DEVICE OR EQUIPMENT; AND

23 (IV) THE MEMBER RESIDES IN A SETTING THAT IS SUITABLE FOR
24 TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING AND DOES NOT HAVE HEALTH-CARE
25 STAFF ON SITE.

26 (b) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING
27 ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1 MUST PRIORITIZE MEMBERS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND MEMBERS
2 WHO ARE PREGNANT AND CARRYING A HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY.

3 (4) THE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF THE HEALTH DATA
4 TRANSMITTED BY TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING MUST BE PERFORMED
5 BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LICENSED HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS:

- 6 (a) PHYSICIAN;
- 7 (b) PODIATRIST;
- 8 (c) ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE;
- 9 (d) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT;
- 10 (e) RESPIRATORY THERAPIST; OR
- 11 (f) LICENSED HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL WORKING UNDER THE
12 SUPERVISION OF A MEDICAL DIRECTOR.

13 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK ANY FEDERAL
14 AUTHORIZATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF
15 THIS SECTION.

16 (6) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE
17 TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS
18 TO OUTPATIENT HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES LOCATED IN A DESIGNATED
19 RURAL COUNTY OR A DESIGNATED PROVIDER SHORTAGE AREA TO ASSIST
20 THE HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WITH THE FINANCIAL COSTS ASSOCIATED
21 WITH PROVIDING TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING FOR OUTPATIENT
22 CLINICAL SERVICES.

23 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT
24 PROGRAM AND, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL AWARD
25 GRANTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6).

26 (c) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, AN OUTPATIENT HEALTH-CARE
27 FACILITY MUST:

1 (I) APPLY FOR A GRANT IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE
2 DEPARTMENT;

3 (II) BE LOCATED IN A DESIGNATED RURAL COUNTY OR DESIGNATED
4 PROVIDER SHORTAGE AREA; AND

5 (III) HAVE A DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
6 PURCHASE EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING
7 FOR OUTPATIENT CLINICAL SERVICES.

8 (d) IN SELECTING GRANT RECIPIENTS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
9 SHALL PRIORITIZE APPLICANTS THAT SERVE POPULATIONS EXPERIENCING
10 DISPARITIES IN HEALTH-CARE ACCESS AND OUTCOMES, INCLUDING, BUT
11 NOT LIMITED TO, HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED AND UNDERSERVED
12 COMMUNITIES, DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST
13 PROPORTION OF PATIENTS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
14 "COLORADO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ACT", THIS ARTICLE 5 AND ARTICLES
15 4 AND 6 OF THIS TITLE 25.5.

16 (e) GRANT RECIPIENTS MAY USE MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE
17 GRANT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING FOR
18 OUTPATIENT CLINICAL SERVICES AND INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

19 (I) TRAINING STAFF TO USE, ASSESS, AND MONITOR TELEHEALTH
20 REMOTE MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES; AND

21 (II) ACQUIRING TELEHEALTH REMOTE MONITORING EQUIPMENT
22 AND DEVICES.

23 (7) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO HOME HEALTH-CARE
24 BENEFITS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25.5-5-321.

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25.5-5-338** as
26 follows:

27 **25.5-5-338. Continuous glucose monitors - coverage - federal**

1 **authorization - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
2 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITOR"
3 MEANS AN INSTRUMENT OR A DEVICE DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
4 AIDING IN THE TREATMENT OF DIABETES BY MEASURING GLUCOSE LEVELS
5 ON DEMAND OR AT SET INTERVALS THROUGH A SMALL, ELECTRONIC
6 SENSOR THAT SLIGHTLY PENETRATES AN INDIVIDUAL'S SKIN WHEN APPLIED
7 AND THAT IS DESIGNED TO REMAIN IN PLACE AND ACTIVE FOR AT LEAST
8 SEVEN DAYS.

9 (2) (a) BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2025, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
10 SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR A CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITOR AND
11 RELATED SUPPLIES TO MEMBERS.

12 (b) COVERAGE CRITERIA MUST ALIGN WITH THE CURRENT GLUCOSE
13 MONITOR LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION STANDARDS ISSUED BY THE
14 CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID THAT ARE USED TO DETERMINE
15 COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

16 (3) COVERAGE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE COST OF
17 ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR THE CONTINUOUS
18 GLUCOSE MONITOR.

19 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK ANY FEDERAL
20 AUTHORIZATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

21 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
22 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
23 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
24 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
25 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
26 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
27 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.