

**Toxicology Consultation --Successful Reimbursement for Telemedicine Services**

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**Background:** Providing patient care through telemedicine is a cost-effective way of performing toxicology consultation when direct bedside care is not feasible. It is primarily performed using interactive audio and video telecommunication, which facilitates real-time interaction between the toxicologist and the patient. While telemedicine has been utilized informally for years in various types of medical practices it has been only recently that opportunities for billing and reimbursement have become available. On January 1, 2016 the New York Telehealth Coverage Law prohibited commercial insurers from excluding telehealth services from coverage when the service would otherwise have been covered if delivered in-person. This effectively allowed for telemedicine billing and reimbursement in New York State, although not all insurance carriers immediately adopted payment and reimbursement practices. **Research Question:** What is the reimbursement profile of medical toxicology consultations performed via telemedicine? **Methods:** Retrospective review of billing records related to medical toxicology consultations performed using telemedicine. Consultations took place after approval of the New York Telehealth Coverage Law on 1/1/2016 over a 4-month period and occurred when bedside consultation was not feasible. Telehealth consultation was performed using secure accounts on password protected tablet computers utilizing Zoom Meeting® platform for connection that allowed direct audio/video conferencing between the medical toxicologist and patient. The primary purpose of our telemedicine consultations was for clearance purposes or to assess and provide recommendations regarding diagnosis and treatment or to instruct on antidote use. **Results:** 16 toxicology encounters utilizing three different CPT codes for initial inpatient telehealth consultation were performed. Specific CPT codes included G0425 (Focused) 30 minutes (#13), G0426 (Detailed) 50 minutes (#2) and G0427 (Comprehensive) 70 minutes (#1). 9/16 (56%) of encounters were successfully billed. Reimbursement ranged from \$42.73-\$217.72 with average of \$105.22 and totaled \$939.39 overall. **Conclusion:** This data describes the first successfully billed telehealth consultations in medical toxicology. Although there is variation of coverage and reimbursement by state telemedicine encounters represent an opportunity to enhance productivity, improve efficiency and generate revenue from toxicology practice while continuing to provide excellent patient care for toxicologic encounters.