



# Montana



**Overall Landscape:** Montana has strong coverage for synchronous models of telehealth service delivery, including audio-only, which is crucial for facilitating access in a state with limited abortion access. However, Montana Medicaid could improve coverage for asynchronous modalities and provide clarity around the establishment of patient-provider relationships via telehealth.

## How Does Montana Medicaid Define Telehealth?

Montana statute [defines](#) telehealth for its Medicaid program as “the use of telecommunications and information technology to provide access to” a variety of health services, like diagnosis and assessment, and includes a variety of modalities including live video, audio-only, and secure portal and instant messaging.

## Are There Restrictions On Where The Patient Can Be Located?

Montana has no originating site definition for patients but the state’s Medicaid [provider manual](#) indicates that “telemedicine can be provided in member’s residence” but provides no other information in terms of allowable or restricted locations.

## Does Montana Medicaid Have Payment Parity For Telehealth Services?

Yes, Montana Medicaid [specifies](#) that telehealth services “must be reimbursed at the same rate of payment as services delivered in person.”

## What Are Covered Modalities In Montana Medicaid?

Montana Medicaid [covers](#) the following modalities:

- Synchronous Video: Yes
- Synchronous Audio-Only: Yes
- Store-And-Forward: No
- Remote Patient Monitoring: No
- Secure Portal/Instant Messaging: Yes

## Can A Provider Establish A Relationship With A Patient Via Telehealth?

There is no specific Montana Medicaid policy, however, [guidance](#) from the state’s Board of Medical Examiners allows a physician to establish a relationship with a patient via telehealth if the standard of care does not require an in-person encounter. It is unclear if this applies to non-physician providers.

## What Is The State Of Abortion Access In Montana?

Montana is considered a [protected state](#) for abortion access because of state constitutional protections, however, [ninety-three percent of counties](#) in Montana do not have at least one clinic that provides abortion care, according to 2017 data analyzed by the Guttmacher Institute. Montana has a [ban](#) on the use of telehealth and mail delivery of medication abortion on the books, but these laws are currently [blocked](#) by litigation.

## Who Can Provide Abortion Care In Montana?

Montana [statute](#) allows physicians and physician assistants to provide abortion care. Advance practice registered nurses are currently authorized to provide abortion care as a result of a [preliminary injunction](#).