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 telecommunication 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.