

Legislative Update April 6, 2020

There have been several changes recently and we just want to make sure you have all the information.

On March 25, the Governor issued a proclamation that makes telemedicine payment parity effective immediately through April 24. In addition, the Governor prohibited:

- Reimbursing in-network providers for telemedicine claims for medically necessary covered services at a rate lower than the contracted rate that would be paid if the services had been delivered through traditional (in-person) methods;
- Denying a telemedicine claim from an in-network provider for a medically necessary covered service due to an existing provider contract term with that provider that denies reimbursement for services provided through telemedicine; and
- Establishing requirements for the payment of telemedicine services that are inconsistent with the emergency orders, rules or technical advisories to carriers issued by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

The Secretary of Health has extended health profession license expiration dates for licenses up for renewal between April 1 and September 30, 2020.

This extension will allow health professionals to focus on patient care and promote continued patient safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. Renewal payment won't be required until September 30, 2020, it will also reduce the economic burden on those providers not able to work during this emergency.

Washington law allows the Secretary of Health to grant an administrative modification for the duration of any license, certification, or registration period to address unusual circumstances. Governor's Proclamation 20-32 provides authority for the action without agency rule making. More information is available [here](#).

There is also a full report from our Lobbyist Sara Stewart on our website.

King County has Volunteer and Paid Opportunities. Please see attached job announcement for details related to this role. Additionally, they are seeking volunteers at their sites. For anyone interested in volunteering, please reach out to volunteer coordinator, Jennifer Winslow, at jewinslow@kingcounty.gov. Otherwise, to apply for the paid positions, please see the attached announcement for application directions.

We also have several resources listed on our website. If there is anything else you need please reach out to WMHCA.

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