

The CONNECT For Health Act (H.R. 4206/S. 1261)

The Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act is bipartisan legislation that would permanently modernize Medicare telehealth policy by removing outdated statutory barriers and ensure Medicare beneficiaries can continue accessing care through telehealth as clinically appropriate.

Telehealth has become an important tool for improving access to care, supporting chronic disease management, and strengthening continuity of care, particularly for patients facing transportation, mobility, or geographic barriers. However, many of the policies that expanded telehealth access remain temporary. The CONNECT for Health Act would provide much-needed permanency for providers and patients who rely on telehealth services.

The CONNECT for Health Act would:

- Remove outdated geographic restrictions that currently limit telehealth access primarily to rural areas.
- Allow the home to remain an eligible originating site, enabling patients to receive care where they live.
- Permanently allow Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to furnish telehealth services as distant site providers, improving access to care in underserved communities.
- Strengthen transparency and oversight of telehealth utilization, including CMS reporting on telehealth use and the integration of telehealth into quality measurement. These provisions will help inform ongoing evaluation of telehealth's impact on patient outcomes and health care costs.

Together, these changes help ensure Medicare policy reflects how health care is delivered today while maintaining appropriate program safeguards.



Why Telehealth Matters for Nutrition Care

Telehealth has become an important tool for registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) to deliver medical nutrition therapy (MNT) and support Medicare beneficiaries managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic kidney disease.

Being able to receive care from any location, including the home via telehealth, is particularly important for older adults, individuals living in rural or underserved communities, and patients managing chronic conditions who benefit from timely nutrition care to support disease management.

By reducing barriers care such as geographic and originating site restrictions, the CONNECT for Health Act can help patients stay engaged in their nutrition care plan, support better outcomes, and help prevent complications that may lead to more costly interventions or hospitalizations. For many Medicare beneficiaries, telehealth offers a practical and accessible way to receive the nutrition services needed to manage chronic disease and maintain overall health.

Support the CONNECT for Health Act

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics urges members of Congress to support and advance the CONNECT for Health Act to ensure Medicare beneficiaries can continue accessing telehealth services that improve access to care and support effective management of chronic conditions. By modernizing Medicare telehealth policy, the legislation will help ensure patients can receive timely, clinically appropriate services, including evidence-based nutrition care such as MNT, while maintaining appropriate program safeguards.

About Us

Representing more than 112,000 credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners, the Academy is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. Many Academy members—registered dietitian nutritionists, nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered, and advanced-degree nutritionists—treat the Medicare population.

For more information from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, please contact govaffairs@eatright.org.

 Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics