

Memorandum

Date: July 29, 2020

To: Lisa Dombro

From: Mara McDermott

RE: Virtual Hill Meeting Report

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Using regulatory flexibility provided during the pandemic, agilon health partner practices have deployed innovative strategies to provide care to patients under stay-at-home orders or otherwise protecting themselves from the spread of COVID-19. Over several weeks in July 2020, agilon health and its physician partners completed a virtual Hill fly-in, meeting with House and Senate offices, to share these strategies and advocate for permanent extension of COVID-19 telehealth waiver flexibilities.

Bill Wulf, MD (Central Ohio Primary Care), Gary Pinta, MD (Pioneer Physicians Network), Kevin Spencer, MD (Premier Family Physicians), Frank Civitarese, DO (Preferred Primary Care Physicians), Norman Chenven, MD (Austin Regional Clinic) and Anas Daghestani, MD (Austin Regional Clinic) participated in meetings with Congressional offices.

These meetings included Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Congressman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), and the office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX). In addition, we met with House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committee staff and Leadership staff who will play a critical part in writing and passing legislation to advance telehealth policy. At these meetings, agilon health executives, Steve Sell (CEO) and Lisa Dombro (SVP, Innovation and Growth) underscored the request that Congress permanently waive the originating site and geographic restrictions on telehealth services in traditional Medicare and shared data to support this request. The policy change, if achieved, would mean that agilon partner practices could continue to offer telehealth services to their patients in a variety of settings, including the patient's home, and would not be subject to site and geographic restrictions.

agilon and its partner practices also emphasized the importance of fair and accurate reimbursement for telehealth services. One critical concern is that as telehealth becomes a permanent part of the payment landscape, payment should take into account the investment of time and resources in making these services available. Physician leaders shared stories of creating virtual waiting rooms and investing staff time to ensure that patients have stable internet connections and have access to the appropriate technology for their visit. We also shared stories from the field, including this parking lot medicine video showing how Preferred Primary Care Physicians has met its patients' needs during the pandemic.

Our messages resonated in these meetings and many champions in Congress are committed to advancing telehealth in a way that is safe and patient-centered while providing support to independent physician practices. agilon health will continue to work with Congress and the Administration to advance these important objectives. In particular, agilon and its partners are uniquely situated to address some of the concerns we heard from Congressional offices around appropriate safeguards to protect

beneficiaries and to better inform the conversation around reimbursement with some additional data points.

On July 27, 2020, Senate Republicans released stimulus legislation, the Health; Economic Assistance; Liability Protection and Schools Act (HEALS) Act that included telehealth provisions giving the HHS Secretary the authority to extend COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities through the later of December 31, 2021 or the end of the public health emergency. The legislation would also require studies from the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), an advisory body to Congress on Medicare issues, and HHS. The extension and the studies would provide additional time and information for Congress and the Administration to consider in determining which flexibilities should be made permanent. Senate Republicans now must hammer out a deal with House Democrats, who passed their own version of stimulus legislation in May. agilon health will continue to closely monitor and weigh in on the development of legislation that protects and advances telehealth policy.

McDermottPlus will continue to provide follow-up information to these offices and share additional data, patient stories, and feedback on legislation as agilon health and its partners make that information available.

Full List of Meetings for Reference:

- Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Senate Finance and Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committees
- Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), House Ways and Means Committee
- Seth Gold, Health Staff for Senator Rob Portman (R-OH); Senate Finance Committee
- Abbie Siebert, Health Staff for Senator Bob Casey (D-PA); Senate Finance and Senate HELP Committees
- Corey Ensslin, Health Staff for Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA), Senate Finance Committee
- Kristen Donheffner, Health Staff to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Senate Finance Committee
- Jessica Burnell, Health Staff for Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY), Ways and Means Committee
- Maddie Davidson, Staff for Senate Finance Committee (R)
- Sarah Levin, Oriell Richardson, and Rachel Dolan, Staff for House Ways and Means Committee (D)
- Rachel Snyder, Staff to House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
- Afton Cissel, Health Staff to Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), House Ways and Means