



Quality is Our Bottom Line

Insurance Committee Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Connecticut Association of Health Plans

Testimony in Opposition to

SB 5 AAC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully opposes SB 5 which seeks to mandate that telemedicine services be covered by health plans in addition to mandating that such services be reimbursed at the same rate as a physician office visit.

While the industry strongly *opposes* passage of a mandate, carriers *support* the telemedicine or telehealth concept which can be employed in various ways such as:

- Virtual visits: medical evaluations, psych assistance, or clinical peer to peer consultation.
- Case or care management under medical home delivery models.
- Adjuncts to home care service: electronic or telephonic monitoring for blood sugar, weight etc.
- Teleradiology: expert consultation in interpreting radiology reports.

Health plans are exploring some or all of these various initiatives and are bringing technology and social media services to bear on behalf of their members. Carriers are looking to be innovators in the field, but passage of SB 5 would halt innovation in lieu of a prescribed process at a specified rate.

In addition, health plans are still navigating the practical considerations of telehealth such as assuring that services are delivered as indicated, that confidentiality of treatment is provided in accordance with the appropriate state and national standards and that the outcomes prove beneficial – all of which argue against placing a mandate in statute.

We urge your rejection of SB 5 and thank you for your consideration.