



## *DHMP Medicare Advantage: Telehealth and Risk Adjustment*

Since 2020, CMS has allowed for diagnosis codes resulting from telehealth encounters to be included in the calculation for Medicare Advantage risk adjustment payment, provided that the **telehealth encounters use real-time audio and video communication**. Diagnosis codes resulting from audio-only encounters cannot be factored into the calculation.

As such, **coding of telehealth encounters for Medicare Advantage members must distinguish between audio/video encounters and audio-only encounters.**

CMS has stated that, in order to report risk-adjustable (i.e. audio/video) encounters, coding for Medicare Advantage encounters should use place of service code "02" or CPT modifier "95." **Using either of these codes in conjunction with a risk-adjustable procedure code will result in risk adjustment payment**, meaning the encounter must have used audio and video communication.

To avoid inaccurate risk adjustment payment, **for audio-only encounters, consider using a procedure code that signifies audio-only, such as the appropriate Telephone E/M codes (99441-99443)**. This procedure code will alert CMS to the fact that the encounter did not include video, and therefore does not qualify for risk adjustment payment.

**Contact DHMP's Medicare Risk Adjustment Analyst at 303-602-2134 if you have any questions regarding this announcement, or Medicare risk adjustment in general. Thank you!**