

SB24-168

Remote Monitoring Services for Medicaid Members

SB24-168 Bill Sponsors: Senators Roberts and Simpson, Speaker McCluskie and Representative Martinez

Remote Patient Monitoring Saves Lives and Money

SB24-168 will expand access to Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) for Medicaid members across Colorado healthcare settings and provide resources for healthcare practices that serve rural and underserved populations to obtain RPM equipment.

SB24-168 will also increase access to continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices for Colorado Medicaid members.

What is Remote Patient Monitoring?

Remote patient monitoring (RPM) is a type of telehealth that enables healthcare providers to monitor patients outside the traditional care setting using digital medical devices. Examples of devices include weight scales, blood pressure monitors, pulse oximeters, and blood glucose meters. RPM connects patients to their local provider via telehealth, leveraging technology while maintaining continuity of care.



RPM enables healthcare providers to gain real-time insights into patients' health status, facilitating timely interventions and early detection of deteriorating conditions. This proactive approach improves patient outcomes and reduces hospitalizations and emergency visits.

RPM in Rural Colorado

Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are eligible RPM providers for Medicare members and some private payers. In Colorado, a few clinics have tried to start RPM programs as a component of chronic care management but these programs are limited in their reach and sustainability by not being able to provide RPM to Medicaid members.

How does SB24-168 increase access to RPM?

SB24-168 will expand access to RPM for Medicaid patients across Colorado healthcare settings. Currently in Colorado, only home health providers are eligible to provide RPM services to Medicaid patients. This bill will expand eligibility to providers across the state, including Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). The bill will also provide resources for healthcare practices that serve rural and underserved populations to obtain RPM equipment.

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- SB24-168 expands access to RPM services and CGM devices for Colorado Medicaid members.



- SB24-168 provides resources for rural and underserved healthcare providers to obtain RPM equipment.

How does SB24-168 benefit patients?

RPM improves health outcomes, eliminates communication barriers, facilitates faster access to providers, reduces hospital readmissions, shortens hospital stays, and enhances patient education.

RPM technologies present a particular benefit for patients with chronic conditions to receive the care they need without constant visits to their physician's physical practice. Patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease often require ongoing monitoring and management. RPM can help these patients better manage their conditions by providing regular monitoring, alerts, and support.

Senate bill 168 would expand access to CGMs for all people with diabetes who use insulin who are on Colorado Medicaid, aligning with Medicare coverage and the majority of state Medicaid programs in the country.

Studies show that continuous glucose monitor (CGM) use improves blood sugar and A1C levels without increasing rates of hypoglycemia in patients, along with improving quality of life for people with diabetes. Additionally, use of CGM by patients with diabetes is associated with lower health care costs, fewer hospital admissions, and better glycemic control. CGM use can prevent expensive short- and long-term health complications of diabetes, which lead to healthcare savings.

How does SB24-168 reduce healthcare spending?

Multiple studies indicate RPM offers patients a clear return on investment over time, with an estimated range of \$1,390 to upward of \$7,000 per individual depending on health care needs. This extends beyond initial healthcare savings to include money associated with transportation, time, and energy to visit a provider, prescriptions, laboratory, imaging costs, and hard and soft expenses if a hospital stay or emergency department visit is required.

When compared to patients not using CGM technology, studies have shown savings of over \$4,000 over nine months per patient when the technology was utilized. CGMs help prevent unnecessary low and high blood sugar levels, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and help patients recover from illness and infection faster, preventing loss of productivity in the school and the workplace.

How does SB24-168 increase health equity in Colorado?

Expanding access to RPM for patients is crucial to achieving health equity in Colorado. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), rural residents are more likely to die prematurely from heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke.

Investments in Remote Patient Monitoring can improve health outcomes for Colorado's rural residents, reducing the health disparity that exists between urban and rural populations.

Many people with diabetes do not have access to these critical devices, including many people on Colorado Medicaid. Colorado Medicaid currently has restrictive eligibility criteria to access a CGM, and SB24-168 would make it easier for people with diabetes to access the tools and technology they need to be healthy. CGMs are a cost-effective solution to improving the lives of people with diabetes.

SB24-168 Endorsements



The State Office of Rural Health

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