



October 31, 2019
For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Harrison
608-277-7477

Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association Support for Telehealth

Madison, WI - The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA) commends the Assembly Committee on Medicaid Reform and Oversight for their unanimous and bi-partisan approval of AB 410 – a bill that will expand telehealth services across the state. The Committee, during an Executive Session on Wednesday 10/30/19, approved the passage of this legislation. WPHCA is the member association for Wisconsin’s 17 Community Health Centers which provide oral health, primary care, and behavioral health services to over 300,000 Wisconsinites each year.

The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association believes that this legislation opens avenues to increase patient and provider utilization of telehealth services for Medicaid/BadgerCare patients.

This legislation:

- Increases access by reducing transportation and mobility barriers, particularly for those living in rural areas who face long travel times between their home and a health care provider.
- Increases patient access to mental health and substance use disorder services by providing an alternative for patients who live in areas with provider shortages for these services.

This increased utilization will result in cost-neutral or cost savings by:

- Improving management of chronic health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes
- Reducing emergency room visits, inpatient hospitalizations, and hospital readmissions
- Reducing transportation costs by decreasing the need for hospital transfers
- Reducing the need for inpatient follow up care

Community Health Centers are continuously supportive of creative and cost-effective ways to remove barriers to care for patients in Wisconsin. Expanding Medicaid coverage for telehealth

services will help all providers increase access to a range of quality health care services for more communities experiencing provider shortages and barriers to care.

WPHCA

For more information on Wisconsin Health Centers, please visit www.wphca.org.

####