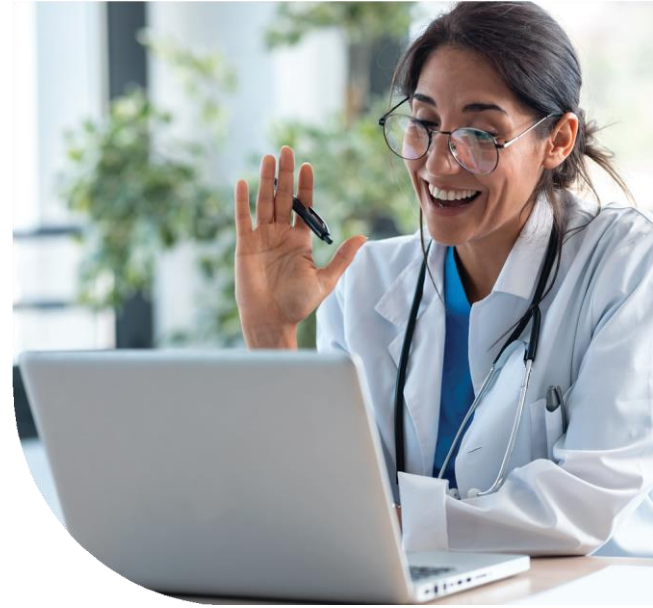


Using Virtual Visits for Annual Well Visits

Use of virtual (telemedicine) visits has increased, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. More physicians are adopting virtual visits as part of their regular practices, due in large part to technological advancements and reimbursement improvements for these virtual care services. The audio and visual two-way interactive communication that virtual visits allow can be enough to address many health concerns and satisfy certain elements of annual well visits.



Physicians should use virtual visits to ensure their patients are adhering to their well-visit schedules. Virtual visits allow physicians to complete several elements of comprehensive well visits, while other elements may require an in-person visit. Current guidance encourages physicians to prioritize in-person newborn care, newborn well visits and immunization of infants and young children through 24 months of age, whenever possible.¹

Elements that can be addressed via a virtual visit include:

- Completion of personal and family medical history
- Creation of current specialty provider list
- Risk factor screenings for depression and other behavioral health concerns
- Medication adherence and reconciliation review
- Distribution of health advice and preventive care education
- Assessment for risk factors and conditions that may impact interventions
- Establishment of an in-person appointment schedule and follow up

Elements that should be addressed in person include:

- Comprehensive physical exams
- Office testing and laboratory testing
- Hearing, vision and oral health screenings
- Immunizations

Virtual visits also can help you satisfy a number of adult and pediatric well visit Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS[®]) measures and help your patients adhere to appointments for immunizations and other preventative services.

For more information on ways to positively impact HEDIS measures via telemedicine, please see our [Closing HEDIS Measure Care Gaps via Telemedicine flyer](#).

For further guidance on using virtual visits for Well-Child visits, please see our [Well-Child Visits Provided via Telemedicine During the COVID-19 State of Emergency](#) web notice.

¹<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/04/14/ambulatory041420>