

Telemedicine Temporarily Added To Retiree Health Plan

Margaret Duggan, Director
Medical Information Committee (MIC)

The following was received on 5/12/20 by Emily Ricci, Chief Health Policy Administrator, Division of Retirement & Benefits:

“As part of the AlaskaCare response to COVID-19 the plan has temporarily expanded telemedicine benefits for all AlaskaCare members including employees and all retiree members to align with the expansions Medicare has implemented. **Members can contact their providers to understand what options are available for video/teleconference for their specific needs as well as to reach out to the Aetna Concierge.**

The temporary administrative changes listed above are in response to a State of Alaska and federally recognized health emergency and do not provide a vested right to coverage for any individual. The Division of Retirement and Benefits retains the sole discretion to rescind or modify these temporary administrative changes depending on the circumstances.”

Medicare permanently added telemedicine to the Medicare Part B plan in 2019.

The Division of Retirement & Benefits has now extended the option of telemedicine to those under 65 to the retiree health plan on a temporary basis, and it can be rescinded at their discretion.