GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2020-15

Expansion of Telemedicine

WHEREAS, both the State of Arizona and the federal government have declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the disease caused by COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, certain populations, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, are at a higher risk of experiencing a more severe case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in-person visits with healthcare professionals may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmissions; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages the use of telemedicine as a means of preventing transmission of the virus at healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that health insurers and providers promote the availability of telehealth services; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19, the danger the virus poses to at-risk populations, and the need to protect our healthcare workforce requires an expansion of telemedicine in Arizona for the duration of the state's declared public health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby order as follows:

1. Beginning on March 25, 2020 and continuing for the duration of the Public Health Emergency declared in Arizona on March 11, 2020, in order to protect public health, expedite access to and treatment of health conditions, and to slow the spread of

COVID-19 within healthcare facilities, all health insurance plans regulated by the Arizona Department of Insurance are hereby required to provide coverage for all healthcare services that are provided through telemedicine if the healthcare service would be covered were it provided through an in-person visit between the enrollee and a healthcare provider.

2. Insurers may establish reasonable requirements and parameters for telehealth services, including documentation and recordkeeping, but such requirements and parameters may not be more restrictive or less favorable to providers, insured, enrollees, or members than are required for healthcare services delivered in-person.

3. Insurers must reimburse healthcare providers at the same level of payment for a telemedicine visit as they would for an in-person visit.

4. Insurers must allow all electronic means of delivering telehealth, including telephone and video calls.

5. To enable individuals to remain in their homes, insurers shall allow a patient's home to be an approved location to receive telemedicine services.

6. Telehealth services subject to this Executive Order may be provided by any Arizona licensed healthcare provider type including, but not limited to, physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, optometrists, psychologists, dentists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, pharmacists, behavioral health providers, chiropractors, athletic trainers, hearing aid dispensers, audiologists, and speech-language pathologists.

7. The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) shall require all Medicaid plans in the State of Arizona to cover all healthcare services that are covered benefits to be accessible by telemedicine to AHCCCS members. AHCCCS shall prohibit Medicaid plans from discounting rates for services provided via telemedicine as compared to contracted rates for in-person services.

8. No Arizona regulatory board shall enforce any statute, rule, or regulation that would require a medical professional who is licensed by that board and who is authorized to write prescriptions to conduct an in-person examination of a patient prior to the issuance of a prescription.

9. This Executive Order does not expand the scope of practice for any licensed provider type.

10. This Executive Order expires upon the termination of the Declaration of Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 dated March 11, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this Twenty-Fifth Day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State