

## POLICY BULLETIN 20-01

Ellen DiDomenico  
Deputy Secretary  
Drug and Alcohol Programs



March 20, 2020

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Subject:** Telehealth Services for Gambling Treatment

On March 6, 2020, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, et seq., Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency related to the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

During the term of this Disaster Emergency, providers who have a grant agreement with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to provide outpatient problem gambling services may use grant funds to provide assessments and outpatient counseling for clients using telehealth technology.

Counselors who have grant agreements are able to provide telehealth using real-time, two-way interactive audio-video transmission services **in the office setting**. While the two-way interactive transmission is the preferred method, services provided by telephone and in the home are also acceptable.

All federal and state privacy and confidentiality requirements applicable to in person services remain applicable to services provided through telehealth technology.

Questions regarding this Information Bulletin can be sent to Amy Hubbard, Treatment Division at [amhubbard@pa.gov](mailto:amhubbard@pa.gov)