



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee  
**Bill Title:** House Bill 551 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services  
**Hearing Date:** February 10, 2021  
**Position:** Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 551 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services*. The bill is critical for ensuring that reimbursement continues to support telehealth services for our patients after the pandemic.

In providing services to women, certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and other health care practitioners can use telehealth technology to increase access to care. Some examples of care are:

- **Hypertension – Prenatal and Post-Partum:** Telehealth, including remote patient monitoring, is a strategy for addressing hypertension for women in both prenatal and postpartum care. It allows for more frequent monitoring and clinical intervention than regular in-person visits.<sup>i</sup> A recent peer-reviewed research study showed that remote patient monitoring reduced prenatal admissions and induced labor for women with gestational hypertension.<sup>ii</sup>
- **Lowering Pregnancy Stress:** The Mayo Clinic’s “OB Nest” program, which includes several uses of telehealth communication resulted in lower pregnancy stress and higher patient satisfaction.<sup>iii</sup>
- **PrEP:** Telehealth is being used to increase access to PrEP.<sup>iv</sup>

We need consistent and fair reimbursement rules in order to continue to implement telehealth innovation across the health care spectrum, including somatic, behavioral health, and dental. We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further assistance, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443

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<sup>i</sup> Hoppe, Kara et al. Telehealth with remote blood pressure monitoring for postpartum hypertension: A prospective single-cohort feasibility study. *Pregnancy Hypertension*. [Volume 15](#), January 2019, Pages 171-176.

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<sup>ii</sup> Lanssens, Dorien et al. The impact of a remote monitoring program on the prenatal follow-up of women with gestational hypertensive disorders. [Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology Volume 223](#), April 2018.

<sup>iii</sup> Butler Tobah, Yvonne et al. Randomized comparison of a reduced-visit prenatal care model enhanced with remote monitoring. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. December 2019.

<sup>iv</sup> Touger, R. & Wood, B.R. Curr HIV/AIDS Rep (2019) 16: 113. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11904-019-00430-z>.